



June 15, 2015

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
HB 2734: Relating to Remediation of Brownfields

Clackamas County supports HB 2734: The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 2734, which allows local governments to create land banks to facilitate brownfield cleanup and redevelopment.

Thousands of properties across Oregon are vacant or underutilized because of known or perceived environmental contamination. These brownfield properties – which range from small dry cleaners and former gas stations to large industrial sites – can be found in virtually every city and county. Not only are these sites failing to contribute to Oregon’s economic recovery, they are also undermining the livability of communities across the state.

Clackamas County has 309 properties listed on the DEQ Environmental Cleanup Site Information (ECSI) Database, 169 of which require an environmental impact study and cleanup. The aforementioned properties are known sites, yet there may be additional undocumented properties containing brownfields within the County as well. Presently, however, there are no resources available to the communities or property owners to assist in assessing risks, analyzing, conducting clean-up, and redeveloping.

HB 2734 creates a new tool for local governments that will aid in our efforts to redevelop brownfield properties. Ultimately, these land banks will help to bring about increased economic activity and improved environmental quality in our local communities. We urge a “yes” vote for HB 2734.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.