



February 23, 2016

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 4084 Brownfields Tax Exemption

Dear Chair Hass and Members of Finance and Revenue Committee:

The City of Beaverton has 231 known brownfield sites comprising more than 451 acres, making brownfields an issue that profoundly limits the capacity of land owners to improve their property and companies to expand their business.

The City of Beaverton was awarded a \$400,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2013 to help property and business owners with brownfield site assessments for remediation, reuse planning, and job training opportunities. It would be very helpful to have a local tax exemption tool to further leverage these funds through cleanup and accelerate our brownfields efforts.

We also applaud the ongoing efforts of the legislature around land banking and are actively evaluating that new legislation.

I urge the Committee to pass HB 4084 to assist us in our ongoing brownfields efforts, as it has the potential to be an important tool that will unlock the economic potential of strategic properties in Beaverton and other cities throughout the state. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and "J".

Michael J. Williams
Economic Development Manager