



April 10, 2017

House Committee on Economic Development and Trade  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: House Bill 3137: Relating to brownfield remediation.**

Dear Chair Lininger, Vice-Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Smith, and members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Trade;

I am writing to share the city of Beaverton's support for House Bill 3137, which would clarify blight to include the existence of brownfields for the purposes of urban renewal planning.

In 2011, Beaverton voters approved the Central Beaverton Urban Renewal Plan which is now being implemented by the Beaverton Urban Redevelopment Agency (BURA). The plan includes various incentive programs such as pre-development assistance which could fund activities such as, geotechnical analyses, market and feasibility studies, environmental assessments, preliminary engineering, and/or design activities leading to redevelopment. Some of the 56 known and 30 suspected brownfields are located within the sub-areas of the urban renewal district, but to date it has not been clear that we could include remediation of brownfields as a part of our urban renewal area.

The city manages an EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant to provide tools and financial incentives for current and future property owners of known or suspected brownfields. But, these financial incentives cannot contribute to remediation and redevelopment, and the resources of BURA can greatly expand the city's ability to revitalize its urban core if this bill passes.

Please support House Bill 3137 as it will allow urban renewal agencies to better utilize their tools and resources to account for all aspects of blight, including addressing brownfields. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Twete". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl Twete  
Community Development Director