



CITY OF PORTLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 1000, Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ Nick Fish, Commissioner ■ Michael Jordan, Director

February 7, 2019

Representative Nathanson, Chair
House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE, HR A
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 2575

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports House Bill 2575 creating a tax credit for eligible costs of removal or remedial action on brownfield properties. Cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites keeps pollutants out of surface and ground water, which aligns with the Bureau of Environmental Services' mission to protect public health and the environment.

The City has been an active participant on the Oregon Brownfield Coalition since its inception, collaboratively working to identify, create, and promote brownfield development strategies for use by the State and local governments. We know that working with partners across the state to create new tools for Oregon to incentivize brownfield cleanup is the best way to address the problem.

A recent study found over 900 acres of brownfields within Portland boundaries. These sites often sit vacant for years or even decades. Cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields contributes to our tax base, provides jobs, improves neighborhood livability, and protects human health and the environment. A variety of tools are needed to overcome the varied challenges posed by brownfield sites.

HB 2575 will provide one of these important tools to support the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields sites. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Eric Noll at eric.noll@portlandoregon.gov or at 503-823-6726.

Sincerely,

Michael Jordan
Director, Bureau of Environmental Services
City of Portland