



February 6, 2019

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Brownfields**

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners supports legislation that incentivizes the redevelopment of brownfield sites.

Brownfields hinder developers from expanding economic and housing investments because of the exorbitant costs to remediate existing conditions. Brownfields are often delinquent on property taxes and all too often, abandoned homes and industrial sites are blights in our communities.

Clackamas County welcomes policies that encourage investments for adaptive re-use of existing properties, recycling existing employment lands within Urban Growth Boundaries, creating new jobs, and attracting new business expansion to Oregon. Rehabilitated brownfield properties can also increase workforce housing options and improve place-based community neighborhoods by creating healthy parks and open spaces.

Because of a shortage of employment lands and workforce housing, and encouraged by passage of HB 2734 in 2015, Clackamas County was one of the first agencies in the state to work with Business Oregon's Brownfields program to prepare a Brownfield Land Bank Authority (LBA) business plan. Clackamas County's LBA will support the county's efforts to remediate, redevelop, and revitalize brownfields without the liabilities traditionally associated with these often-overlooked and undesirable properties. While Clackamas County is making great strides with the formation of the LBA, its work will be further complemented by enhancing policies and programs supporting brownfield redevelopment statewide.

As a member of the Oregon Brownfields Coalition, Clackamas County supports the following policy and funding measures that will help local and statewide efforts to restore brownfields:

- Development of a state tax credit to incentivize investors to purchase and redevelop brownfield properties (HB 2575)
- Recapitalizing Business Oregon's Brownfield Redevelopment Fund
- Investment in the Clackamas County Land Bank Authority

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