



House and Senate Revenue Committees

6 February 2019

Re: HB 2575

To whom it may concern,

Brownfields are a problem across our state. Some successful efforts have been made in the past, but we still have far too many contaminated properties. It's not healthy for our children, wildlife or our economy.

Other states have implemented extremely successful tax credit programs which result in a marked increase in brownfield redevelopment and an excellent return on investment for the state. In Oregon, we have evaluated the economic benefit of tax credits and raised a few eyebrows with the results. Industrial zoned properties in Portland would pay back the tax credits with state tax revenue in ten years. Downtown properties would pay back the credits in one year. After that, the tax revenue keeps rolling in. What if we had done this ten years ago?

Columbia Corridor Association has been working on the brownfield issue for 13 years. We're proud to be part of the Oregon Brownfields Coalition. The coalition has identified a number of tools, but none are as powerful as state tax credits. Other states have come to the same conclusion.

A state tax credit for brownfield cleanups is a sound investment strategy. It's rare to see environmental and workforce benefits parallel each other, with little risk to the state. I ask you to evaluate the return on investment of brownfield tax credits in HB 2575 and hope you will support it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Corky Collier' in a cursive script.

Corky Collier
Executive Director