

February 27, 2019

Representative Lively, Chair
House Economic Development Committee
900 Court Street NE, HR E
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2699 – Brownfield Property Tax Incentive Program Technical Fix

Dear Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

We, the undersigned members of Oregon Brownfield Coalition, offer our support of House Bill 2699. The bill allows a property owner to simultaneously participate in the brownfield tax incentive program and other tax incentive programs when providing multiple public benefits through the cleanup and redevelopment of a brownfield property.

Brownfields are properties that are contaminated or suspected to be contaminated. Cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields stimulates the economy while protecting public health and the environment. In 2016, the Legislature passed a bipartisan bill, HB 4084, authorizing local governments to voluntarily adopt local programs to provide a limited property tax exemption for eligible costs related to the cleanup and redevelopment of a brownfield property.

HB 2699 will: 1) allow developers to participate in more than one tax incentive program while continuing to encourage the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites, 2) permit jurisdictions to promote other important goals through development in addition to brownfield remediation, such as affordable housing development and economic development, and 3) ensure property owners will not receive benefits in excess of their property tax liability for the costs actually incurred in the cleanup process.

We urge your support of HB 2699. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

