Dear Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Murkowski:

As our nation works to recover from difficult economic times, communities are struggling to find the resources to redevelop and put back to productive use the over 450,000 brownfields that exist in urban, suburban, and rural areas throughout our country. Without EPA funding, brownfields can remain unattractive for investment and reuse and can also prove to be a significant impediment to broader revitalization efforts in the communities in which they are located. In contrast, their cleanup and development creates jobs and spurs economic growth.

For these reasons, we are writing to request funding of $175 million for the EPA Brownfields Program, which is the amount of the President’s Fiscal Year 2012 budget request. EPA’s program has made tremendous progress in accelerating the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites across the nation, such as abandoned dry cleaning facilities, gas stations, and former industrial sites. However, EPA consistently receives many more applications than it has funds to award.

Thank you for your past support of this program, and we ask for your continued support. We recognize that there are many competing priorities facing your subcommittee, but we believe that redevelopment of brownfields is a foundation of economic growth and job creation, and a vital component of community revitalization.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Lautenberg
Carl Levin