April 16, 2012

The Honorable Tom Latham, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax 202-225-3509

The Honorable John W. Olver, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515
Fax 202-225-9476

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Olver:

Re: Ensuring Adequate Funding for HUD’s Brownfields and Community Redevelopment Programs
As your subcommittee prepares to consider the FY 2013 Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, we urge you to ensure that there is sufficient funding provided for HUD’s brownfields program. Specifically, we are asking the subcommittee to include: 1) $7 million in appropriations to support $500 million in HUD Section 108 loan guarantee authority; 2) $100 million for the HUD Sustainable Communities Program; and 3) $25 million for HUD’s Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) program.

The National Brownfields Coalition is broadly concerned with revitalization of urban areas by turning brownfields and distressed properties into assets and engines of urban economic growth. These four programs are cornerstones for community turn-around strategies.

- HUD 108 funds allow communities to finance major redevelopment projects – on brownfield or otherwise blighted properties – by borrowing against future CDBG entitlements. HUD 108 fills a critical role in gap financing, particularly in light of the current drought in private lending for urban redevelopment.

- The Sustainable Communities Initiative stimulate comprehensive regional and community planning efforts that integrate transportation and housing investments to bring about more sustainable regional and local development patterns.

- The BEDI Program helps address the 450,000 to one million brownfield sites that cause blight to neighborhoods, inhibit economic development, pose risks to public health and the environment, and erode the tax base of communities throughout the country. The BEDI Program, in contrast to the EPA Brownfields Program, can assist with site preparation (not just cleanup) costs, can assist privately owned sites with substantial gap financing, and, when combined with HUD 108, can assist larger redevelopment projects.

Again, we urge you to ensure that HUD’s brownfields and community redevelopment programs receive adequate funding in FY 2013. Without these critical seed funds, hundreds of thousands of brownfield sites and other distressed properties will continue to remain idle, blighting neighborhoods and undermining local revitalization.

If you have questions or want additional information, please contact Evans Paull at National Brownfields Coalition at 202-329-4282, ev@redevelopmenteconomics.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Evans Paull
Executive Director
National Brownfields Coalition
The Honorable Tom Lathan  
The Honorable John W. Olver  
RE: Appropriations for HUD’s Brownfields and Community Redevelopment Programs  
April 16, 2012

National Brownfields Coalition:

National, Regional and State Organizations:
  US Conference of Mayors  
  Smart Growth America  
  NAIOI, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association  
  National Association of Local Government  
  Environmental Professionals  
  Environmental Bankers Association  
  Groundwork USA  
  National Brownfields Association  
  Brownfields Coalition of the Northeast  
  Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group  
  Center for Creative Land Recycling  
  Florida Brownfields Association  
  Colorado Brownfields Foundation  
  Minnesota Brownfields  
  Louisiana Brownfields Association  
  Goldstein Brownfields Foundation

Local Government:
  City of Rochester  
  City of Trenton  
  City of Milwaukee  
  Land of the Sky Regional Council

Members of the Brownfields Leadership Circle:
  Terracon  
  O’Neill Properties Group  
  Sustainable Strategies 2050  
  Cardno TBE  
  Environmental Financial Advisor LLC

Other Private Sector Partners:
  Ayres Associates

cc:  The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
     The Honorable Norman D. Dicks, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee  
     Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies  
     The Honorable Spencer Bachus, Chair, House Financial Services Committee  
     The Honorable Barney Frank, Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee