April 16, 2012

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Treasury, Housing & Urban Development
173 Russell Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: (202) 224-0238

The Honorable Susan Collins, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: (202) 224-2693

Dear Chairman Murray and Ranking Member Collins:

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
Dear Honorable Patty Murray,
Honorable Susan Collins,

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
- NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association
- National Association of Local Government
- Environmental Professionals
- Environmental Bankers Association
- 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 Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman, Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
Members Transportation and HUD Subcommittee
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable James Inhofe
The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Orin Hatch
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Susan Collins
RE: Appropriations for HUD’s Brownfields and Community Redevelopment Programs
April 16, 2012