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Smart Growth America
Improving lives by improving communities



**CENTER FOR CREATIVE
LAND RECYCLING**

RECLAIM. CONNECT. TRANSFORM.



March X, 2019

Re: Letter to _____ Supporting the EPA Appropriations for the Brownfields Program

Dear Congressman/woman XX:

On behalf of the National Brownfields Coalition, and the undersigned organizations, we urge you to fully fund the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program and provide no less than \$200,000,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, as authorized by the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act (BUILD Act) (P.L. 115-141). In addition, we ask that you to fund the State Response Program at the authorized level of \$50,000,000.

We were pleased with the passage of the BUILD Act last year, which reauthorized the EPA's successful Brownfields program and made necessary enhancements, including expanding brownfields grant eligibility to non-profits and brownfield sites acquired prior 2002. We were also pleased that FY18 and FY19 appropriations protected funding for EPA and provided additional funding for brownfield cleanup.

While brownfield sites cause blight to neighborhoods, inhibit economic development and pose risks to public health and the environment; they also provide an opportunity for transformative neighborhood revitalization. The EPA Brownfields program is often the catalyst in spurring community development, increasing local tax revenue and creating jobs. On average, companies and communities leveraged \$16.99 for each EPA Brownfields dollar and supported 8.9 jobs per \$100,000 of EPA Brownfields funds expended on assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan fund cooperative agreements. The program is on track to meet targets set for FY2019, leveraging \$731.345 million dollars and 3,475 jobs on projects across the country.¹

By any measure, the EPA Brownfields Program has been tremendously successful in helping towns and cities across the country spur private investment and create jobs in neighborhoods impacted by past plant closures and abandoned property.

We urge you to support the Brownfields Program during the FY2020 appropriations and provide vital support to communities nationwide.

Sincerely,

National Brownfields Coalition

¹ Brownfields Program Accomplishments and Benefits. (2019, February 05). Retrieved March 21, 2019, from <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-program-accomplishments-and-benefits>