



BROWNFIELDS

REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

H.R. 1758

This bipartisan legislation would provide the first reauthorization of the EPA's brownfields program since it was authorized in 2001, and provide needed reforms and updates of the program to help ensure the revitalization and return to productivity of potentially contaminated and abandoned properties across the country.

BACKGROUND:

Brownfields are properties where contamination is suspected, but unknown. Fear of environmental liability at these sites causes developers to look outside cities, towns, and communities to previously undeveloped properties for new opportunities. This leaves many of these brownfields untouched, driving down property values, contributing to blight, and providing no tax revenue to local communities.

In 2001, Congress created specific authority for dealing with brownfields. The "Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act of 2001" (P.L. 107-117) amended the Superfund law and authorized funding to EPA to provide grants for assessment and cleanup, provided targeted liability relief for property owners, and increased federal support for the state and tribal programs that were already underway.

Benefits of having these sites redeveloped include increased property values between 5 and 15.2 percent, and measurable environmental benefits. Additionally, between \$16 and \$17 is leveraged for every EPA dollar spent on the brownfields program, and nearly 120,000 jobs have been leveraged since the start of the program.

As of this year, EPA and the state and tribal programs have assessed more than 25,000 properties, completed over 100,000 cleanups and made more than 1,000,000 acres ready for reuse. Authorization for brownfields grants expired in 2006, however Congress continued to appropriate funds for this important program.

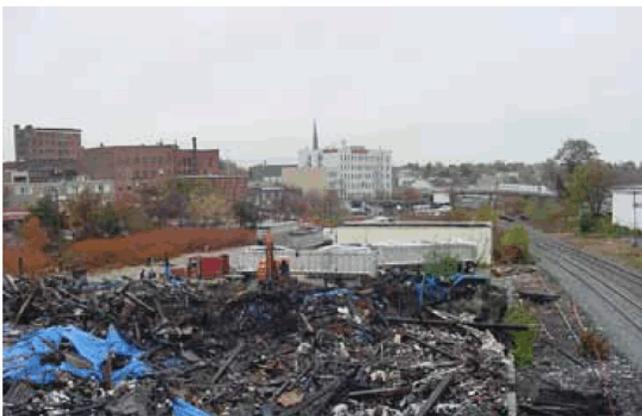


SUMMARY

H.R. 1758, the “Brownfields Reauthorization Act of 2017,” is bipartisan legislation that formally reauthorizes the brownfields grant and state voluntary cleanup program for fiscal years 2017 to 2022, and makes targeted reforms.

SPECIFICALLY, H.R. 1758:

- Increases funding limits for direct remediation grants;
- Creates a new multipurpose grant for entities to conduct assessment and remediation activities at one or more brownfield sites in a proposed area;
- Expands eligibility for brownfields grants to certain nonprofit organizations; and
- Expands grant eligibility to government entities that acquired brownfields property prior to the enactment of the Brownfields Law.



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

HOPE RUBBER PARKING LOT AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE SITE TRANSFORMED INTO A LUSH RIVERFRONT PARK IN FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS