



February 1, 2021

House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2518 Establishes program to make forgivable loans to reimburse private owner or operator of brownfield for eligible costs incurred in completion of removal or remedial action at brownfield

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Cate, Vice-Chair Kropf and Members of the House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity;

I am writing to share the City of Beaverton's support for House Bill 2518, which creates an Oregon Brownfield Properties Revitalization Fund, administered by Business Oregon.

Beaverton, like many communities, faces challenges to redevelopment consistent with its adopted plans because sites in older areas of the city often have potential or known environmental contamination. We currently provide limited tools through an EPA grant to assist with known or suspected brownfield sites, including environmental site assessments, cleanup and redevelopment planning assistance, and consultation on potential contamination issues. If HB 2518 is approved, existing and potential owners would have access to an additional tool through new grant funds to cover some of those eligible costs and possible enhancements.

With support from an EPA Community-Wide Assessment Grant, the City has identified almost 60 potential brownfields in Beaverton's Creekside District, which encompasses the downtown area. Revitalization of this area has been a central component of the City's Community Vision, Civic Plan and Beaverton Urban Redevelopment Plan. This bill provides an important tool for those property owners to access funds to help revitalize the area, with clear rules and responsibilities.

As a member of the Oregon Brownfield Coalition, Beaverton supports House Bill 2518 as a tool to address the wide-ranging challenges of brownfield remediation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Twete". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping tail.

Cheryl Twete
Community Development Director