



CITY OF PORTLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 613, Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ Mingus Mapps, Commissioner ■ Michael Jordan, Director

February 2, 2021

Representative John Lively, Chair
House Economic Recovery and Prosperity Committee
900 Court St. NE, HR C
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports House Bill 2518 creating the Oregon Brownfield Properties Revitalization Fund to be administered by Business Oregon. Cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields is an important economic development tool that contributes to our tax base, provides jobs, addresses longstanding environmental justice inequities, improves neighborhood livability, and protects human health and the environment.

There are more than 900 acres of brownfields within Portland boundaries. In the Portland Metro area, these sites are three times as likely to be located in underserved communities. Half are within 1,000 feet of environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands and streams. Because of the challenges caused by legacy contamination, brownfield sites often sit vacant for years or even decades.

A variety of tools are needed to overcome the varied challenges posed by brownfields. HB 2518 will provide one of these important tools: a carefully tailored grant fund that will allow Business Oregon to partner with brownfield owners to overcome the barriers on their sites, clearing the way for cleanup and reuse. This tool will be particularly impactful right now in Portland, and other regions in Oregon, to support small business owners struggling with economic impacts related to COVID-19, spur economic recovery, and to help address our ongoing housing crisis through the creation of more workforce and affordable housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. We urge your support of HB 2518. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Eric Noll at eric.noll@portlandoregon.gov or at 503-823-6726.

Sincerely,

Michael Jordan
Director