



TO: Oregon Legislature
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Matt Brinkley, Planning Director
City of Medford

DATE: February 2, 2021

RE: HB 2518

For 2021, the City of Medford's legislative platform includes:

Brownfields Redevelopment Proposal: Support and participate in developing legislation that encourages assessment, cleanup and re-use or redevelopment of brownfields and other underutilized sites, including incentives for cleaning up and redeveloping brownfield properties.

Since 1997 and the inception of the Brownfield Redevelopment Fund, the City of Medford has actively worked on policies that encourage redevelopment of contaminated brownfield sites. From liability protections to Land Banks, from property tax incentive programs to tax credits, we have been involved in coalitions that continue to bring ideas forward and advocate together as allies. **HB 2518** brings forward yet another idea – a better one.

Recapitalizing the existing Brownfield Redevelopment Fund is a top priority for the City, but HB 2518 offers a creative new avenue to do this much needed work. The Oregon Brownfield Properties Revitalization Fund in HB 2518 will create opportunities for a new group of applicants and projects, and incentives contained in the bill mean that affordable housing, rapid electric vehicle charging stations, public parks, health facilities, and communities impacted by wildfire can all benefit.

Brownfields are an urban and rural challenge, and HB 2518 recognizes the special challenges faced by rural and distressed communities by providing greater support for the cleanup of properties in those locations. The forgivable loan program described in HB 2518 would strengthen communities' ability to address blighted and underutilized properties as well as promote economic development.

We urge your support of HB 2518.