



Oregon Brownfield Coalition

House Bill 2518, Brownfield Properties Revitalization Fund

Formed in 2014, the Oregon Brownfield Coalition is a group of more than 50 public, private and nonprofit organizations dedicated to finding solutions to the statewide problem of brownfield contamination. Members of the Coalition have successfully advocated both for funding and for the creation of new policy tools through legislative proposals to advance brownfield remediation and cleanup across Oregon.

Past successes

2015: Recapitalization of Business Oregon's Brownfields Redevelopment Fund

2015: Passage of HB 2734, authorizing local governments to create brownfields land bank authorities

2016: Passage of HB 4084, authorizing local governments to offer property tax incentives for brownfield cleanup and redevelopment

2019: Recapitalization of Business Oregon's Brownfields Redevelopment Fund (funding rescinded when lottery bond sale was cancelled)

2021: Support HB 2518 to create a forgivable loan program to incentivize brownfield cleanups

HB 2518 would create a new fund, the Oregon Brownfield Properties Revitalization Fund, to provide forgivable loans to property owners and developers to subsidize the costs of brownfield cleanup. Loans would be forgiven upon project completion and demonstration of performance.

This incentive can help offset risks and costs of cleanup for sites that would otherwise remain polluted. The program would:

- be available only to landowners who did not cause, contribute to or exacerbate the contamination of their property
- have a per-project cap
- offer incentives for landowners to provide additional public benefits beyond the cleanup itself
- require property owners to conduct their remediation subject to DEQ oversight
- enhance cleanup and redevelopment opportunities in rural and distressed areas well as areas affected by wildfire

This program could support any work done to evaluate and clean up properties, including assessment, demolition, remediation and disposal. It would offer a statewide incentive to property owners and developers that might not otherwise explore development on known brownfields. The credit could increase development feasibility of key industrial and employment sites, as well as redevelopment opportunities statewide. Similar programs elsewhere have created thousands of jobs with relatively limited public investment.

Coalition members

1000 Friends of Oregon

Albina Community Bank

Allen Enterprises 2000

Association of Oregon Counties

Audubon Society of Portland

Beyond Toxics

Black Helderline LLP

Business Oregon

Cardno

Cities of Bend, Beaverton, Eugene, Gresham,

Hillsboro, Medford, Milwaukie, Portland,

Salem, Tigard, Wilsonville

Clackamas County

Clackamas County Business Alliance

Columbia Corridor Association

DEQ

Durham & Bates Insurance Brokers GEI

Consultants

Dudek

IBEW

Jordan Ramis

League of Oregon Cities

Maul, Foster & Alongi

Metro

Multnomah County

Multnomah County Environmental Health

Native Plant Society of Oregon

NEEK Engineering

Neighborhood Partnerships

Northeast Oregon Economic Development

District

Northwest Environmental Business Council

Oregon Business & Industry

Oregon Business Authority

Oregon Business Council

Oregon Coalition of Police/Sheriffs Oregon

Health Authority

Oregon Home Builders Association

Oregon Opportunity Network

Oregon Public Ports Association

Oregon State Building & Construction
Trades Council

Oregon State Chamber of Commerce

PBS Engineering + Environmental

Port of Portland

Portland Business Alliance

Portland Development Commission

Portland State University

Regional Solutions Center

Stoel Rives

Sussman Shank LLP

Terraphase Engineering

Tonkon Torp

US EPA Brownfields Program - Oregon

Verde NW

Washington County

Westside Economic Alliance

US Army Corps of Engineers

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