



THE BUREAU OF
**PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY**

February 19, 2025

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
900 Court St. NE, HR A
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Meek, Vice Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Portland, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 99.

The City of Portland was a strong supporter of when the State Legislature passed House Bill 4084 to create the statutory authorization for brownfield cleanup property tax incentive programs in 2016. Cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields is a critical economic development tool that contributes to our tax base, addresses longstanding environmental disparities, improves the livability of our neighborhoods, and prioritizes public health and the environment.

In the Portland Metro area, these sites are three times as likely to be located in underserved communities, and 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.

Brownfields are a critical issue for the City of Portland, and significant efforts are made to provide technical and financial assistance to nonprofit and community organizations, small businesses, community members, landowners, and prospective purchasers regarding potentially contaminated land. These efforts have led to the development of 19 parks or green spaces, 12 community gardens or urban farms, 31 nonprofits, 32 small businesses, and 976 affordable housing units. The City needs a variety of tools, such as this incentive benefit program, to support brownfield redevelopment.

Extending the sunset on this property tax incentive benefit program for brownfields will allow the City of Portland to support small business owners, spur economic recovery, create more workforce opportunities, and address our ongoing housing crisis through the creation of more affordable housing.



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For these reasons, the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability urges your support of SB 99.

Thank you,



Eric Engstrom
Interim Director
Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

