

TAKE ACTION: SAVE THE HUD BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

Background

The HUD Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) and the HUD 108 loan guarantee program are used to clean up and redevelop brownfields and blighted properties. BEDI provides funds for demolition, site preparation, and building rehabilitation on contaminated sites and HUD 108 allows communities to finance major redevelopment projects by borrowing against future CDBG entitlements.

The President's budget zeroed out both of these programs. During the appropriations process, the House bill restored funding for the programs, providing \$25 million for BEDI and \$6 million for HUD 108, but the Senate version also zeroed out both programs. The differences between the House and Senate bills will be worked out in conference committee. Below is the list of likely conferees.

The HUD brownfields program fills a unique niche in funding difficult blighted and contaminated sites (see the attached talking points). It would be a mistake to eliminate these important tools. Please help us reach out to the list of conferees below and ask them to support the House funding levels for these programs! Contact Evans Paull (epaull@nemw.org) with questions or to sign on to the National Brownfields Coalition letter.

<p>Senate Appropriations Daniel Inouye, Aprop Committee Chair Thad Cochran, (R-MS), Ranking Member</p>	<p>House Appropriations David R. Obey (WI), Chair Jerry Lewis (CA), Ranking Member</p>
<p>Senate Transportation-HUD Subcommittee Members Democratic Subcommittee Members Senator Patty Murray (Chairman) (WA) Senator Robert C. Byrd (WV) Senator Barbara Mikulski (MD) Senator Herb Kohl (WI) Senator Richard Durbin (IL) Senator Byron Dorgan (ND) Senator Patrick Leahy (VT) Senator Tom Harkin (IA) Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA) Senator Tim Johnson (SD) Senator Frank Lautenberg (NJ) Senator Arlen Specter (PA) Republican Subcommittee Members Senator Christopher Bond (Ranking Member) (MO) Senator Richard Shelby (AL) Senator Robert Bennett (UT) Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) Senator Sam Brownback (KS) Senator Lamar Alexander (TN) Senator Susan Collins (ME) Senator George Voinovich (OH)</p>	<p>House Transportation-HUD Subcommittee Members Democratic Subcommittee Members Chair: John W. Olver (MA) Ed Pastor (AZ) Ciro Rodriguez (TX) Marcy Kaptur (OH) David E. Price (NC) Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA) Marion Berry (AR) Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (MI) Republican Subcommittee Members Tom Latham (Ranking Member) (IA) Frank R. Wolf (VA) John R. Carter (TX) Steven C. LaTourette (OH) Jerry Lewis (CA), Ex Officio</p>

Talking Points

Brownfields are a major concern in my community.

- There are an estimated 450,000 to one million brownfields sites nationally and, at the current pace of cleanup, we are addressing less than two percent of this inventory annually.
- These properties cause blight to neighborhoods, inhibit economic development, pose risks to public health and the environment, and erode local tax bases.
- *If you can, talk about an example of the impact a brownfield property, or its cleanup and redevelopment, has had in your city or state.*

The HUD brownfields program helps clean up and redevelop these properties.

- The HUD brownfields program has been critical to helping hundreds of communities across the country clean up and redevelop these properties, creating jobs, increasing local tax revenue, and bringing new vitality to struggling neighborhoods.

The HUD brownfields program plays a unique and important role in doing this.

- The EPA brownfields program can only be used for site assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites.
- The BEDI program complements the EPA program by providing assistance for demolition, site preparation, and building rehabilitation on contaminated sites. Case studies have shown that site assessment and cleanup costs comprise less than one-half of the public investments required for successful projects, so this funding is particularly important for making projects work.
- HUD 108 is the only federal community development program that is geared to larger scale redevelopment. It allows communities to finance major redevelopment projects – on brownfields or otherwise blighted properties – by borrowing against future CDBG entitlements, making it possible for those communities to undertake the types of ambitious redevelopment plans that can reverse patterns of disinvestment and alter a community's future.

Other HUD programs cannot substitute for the HUD brownfields program.

- While HUD's CDBG program can also be used to clean up and redevelop brownfields, CDBG funds are also highly constrained in most cities by the necessity of meeting the needs of lower income communities, usually by providing affordable housing.
- BEDI and HUD 108 allow for more flexibility in undertaking brownfield redevelopment, making it possible for communities to consider the marketplace and the larger needs of the city when undertaking brownfields projects.

The HUD brownfields program is a wise investment during tough economic times.

- The HUD brownfield program helps stabilize communities and improve the economy – creating cleanup and construction jobs, eliminating blight, and increasing local tax revenue.
- These programs are a wise investment of federal dollars. In FY 2005 BEDI was funded at \$24 million. These BEDI funds leveraged at least \$125 million in HUD 108 loans, and the HUD 108 loans further leveraged non-federal dollars on the order of \$1 billion.

THE ASK

As you go to conference on the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, I urge you to support the House levels of funding for the BEDI and HUD 108 programs: \$25 million for BEDI and \$6 million for HUD 108.