

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 22, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We are writing to ask you to reject the proposed cuts in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Brownfields Program in the President's FY2020 budget request, and to include funding the program at the authorized amount. This important program drives economic growth by providing funds and technical assistance to assess and clean-up contaminated property sites for redevelopment, and helps promote successful local economic development in communities across the United States. Using funds from the Brownfields program, communities are able to convert liabilities into productive local assets. In the past, Brownfield funds have successfully laid the groundwork for manufacturing plants, commercial spaces, housing, community recreation facilities, and parks. Redeveloping contaminated properties creates jobs, improves environmental quality, and boosts local and state tax revenues.

As of February 1, 2019 the EPA's Brownfields program has assessed 28,697 properties, made 80,952 acres ready for reuse, leveraged the creation of 144,800 jobs, and \$27.527 billion in funding since the program's inception in 1995. Further, EPA has found that approximately \$16.86 is leveraged for each dollar the EPA Brownfields program spends and 8.6 jobs leveraged per \$100,000 of EPA brownfields funds expended on assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan fund cooperative agreements. A study found that residential property values increased 5% to 15.2% once a nearby brownfield was assessed or cleaned up. Analyzing data near 48 of those brownfields, another study found an estimated \$29 to \$97 million in additional tax revenue for local governments in a single year after cleanup—2 to 7 times more than the \$12.4 million EPA contributed to the cleanup of those brownfields.

Given the high success of EPA's Brownfields Program and its direct importance to economic recovery in rural and urban communities nationally, we are requesting that the program be adequately funded. While much has been done over the past two decades to clean-up and assess contaminated sites, a strong need still remains. EPA's Brownfields Program is making necessary

investments that are helping to rebuild our country and to stimulate economic growth and jobs in our cities and towns.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We recognize that there are many competing priorities facing your subcommittee and we hope that you will support this program.

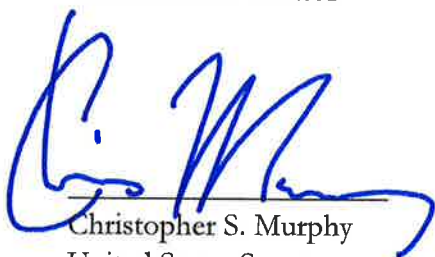
Sincerely,



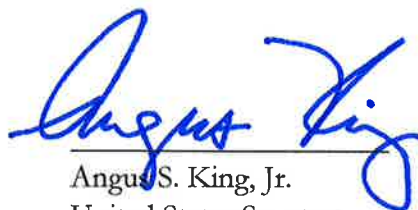
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



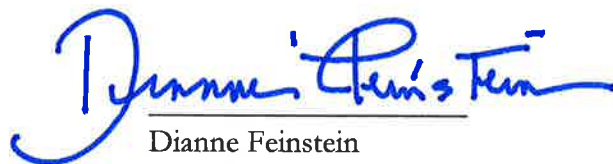
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



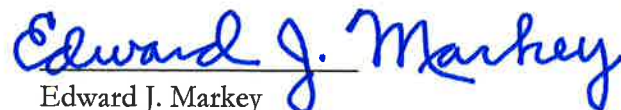
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



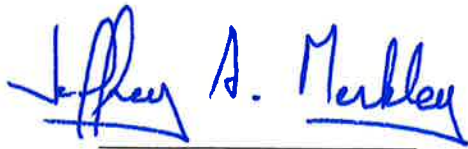
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



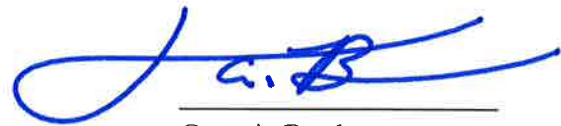
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



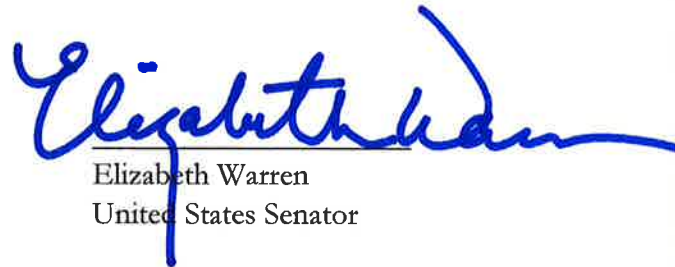
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senate



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



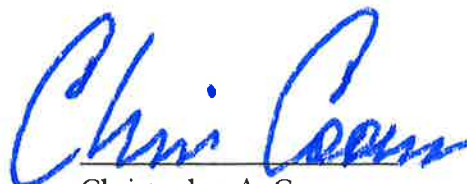
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



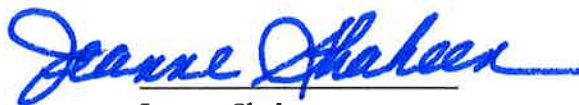
Kamala D. Harris
United State Senator



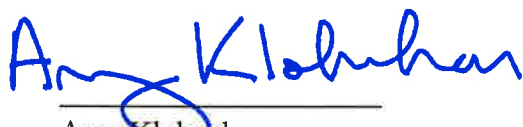
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



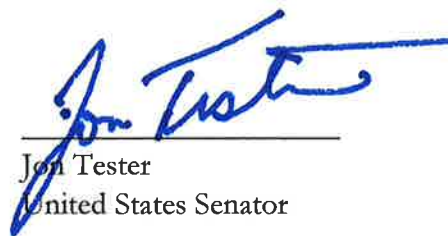
Michael F. Bennet
United State Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United State Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator