



1152 15th St. NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20005
202-207-3355

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March 22, 2018

Re: Letter to the Senate Supporting the FY18 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of LOCUS, Smart Growth America, National Brownfields Coalition, and the undersigned organizations, we urge you to VOTE YES on the fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriations bill, H.R. 1625.

We are pleased the omnibus bill includes the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act (BUILD Act) which will reauthorize the successful EPA's Brownfields program while making necessary enhancements including expanding brownfields grant eligibility to non-profits and brownfield sites acquired prior 2002. The BUILD Act will also provide additional resources to smaller and rural communities and enables EPA to provide multi-purpose grants to accelerate redevelopment by streamlining the cleanup process. In addition to the BUILD Act, we also pleased the FY18 omnibus bill protects funding for EPA and provides additional funding for brownfield cleanup.

Brownfield sites cause blight to neighborhoods, inhibit economic development and pose risks to public health and the environment. The EPA Brownfields program is often the catalyst in spurring larger revitalization efforts, increasing local tax revenue and creating jobs. On average, \$16.11 was leveraged for each EPA Brownfields dollar and 8.5 jobs leveraged per \$100,000 of EPA brownfields funds expended on assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan fund cooperative agreements. By any measure, the EPA Brownfields program has been tremendously successful in helping towns and cities across the country are able to spur private investment and produce jobs to revitalize neighborhoods impacted by past plant closures and abandoned property.

We urge you to support passage of H.R. 1625 – the omnibus FY 2018 appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Christopher Coes at 202-549-9642 if you have questions or would like more information concerning this request.

Sincerely,

National Brownfields Coalition
Smart Growth America
LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors
Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast
Cardno Limited
Center for Creative Land Recycling
Groundwork USA

LOCUS



Smart Growth America
Improving lives by improving communities

NATIONAL
BROWNFIELDS
COALITION

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Knauf Shaw LLP
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MN Brownfields
National Association of Development Organizations
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
The Wilderness Society