



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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Mayors Promote Clean-Up and Redevelopment of Brownfields

Charlotte, NC – U.S. Conference of Mayors Vice President and Hempstead (NY) Mayor James Garner today commended Congress and President Bush for enacting legislation earlier this year that will speed the clean-up of thousands of brownfield sites across the country and said mayors would seek more funding to conduct economic development activities on these sites. Mayor Garner spoke on behalf of the nation's mayors at the "Brownfields 2002" conference being held here.

"We cannot have sustainable communities if we simply throw away productive land once it's been used," said Mayor Garner. "Cleaning up these brownfield sites will promote the long-term economic and environmental health of our cities."

Brownfields are abandoned or under-used properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

A February 2000 brownfields report by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found –

- 210 cities estimated that they had more than 21,000 brownfields sites, ranging in size from a quarter of an acre to a single site that measures 1,300 acres.
- Of those that could estimate acreage, 201 cities had more than 81,568 acres of land that were abandoned or underutilized. This acreage is nearly the same as the total land area of the cities of Minneapolis and Pittsburgh combined.
- Brownfields affect cities of all sizes. Nearly a third of the respondents were cities with populations under 50,000, and more than six out of ten respondents were cities with populations under 100,000.
- Brownfields redevelopment could generate 550,00 additional jobs and up to \$2.4 billion in new tax revenue for cities. The legislation passed last year provides some initial funding for the clean-up of brownfield sites. Mayors will seek additional funding in the next Congress.

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Charlotte Mayor Patrick McCrory, who chairs the Conference's Environment Committee, told participants, "Mayors first raised the brownfields issue and made passage of this legislation a key priority. We are so pleased that Congress and the President responded and look forward to working with them on the next steps needed to clean-up and redevelop these sites."

The Conference's report on brownfields is accessible at:
http://usmayors.org/uscm/brownfields/full_report_rev3.pdf
An updated report will be issued early next year.

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today. Its chief elected official, the mayor, represents each city in the Conference. The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information. More information about the Conference is available at www.usmayors.org.