Mayors Applaud U.S. Senate for Proposing Bipartisan Legislation to Support Brownfields Redevelopment

Washington, DC - Today, The United States Conference of Mayors applauded a move by the U.S. Senate to introduce bipartisan Brownfields legislation called, the “Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2013” or the “BUILD Act”.

Brownfields are properties whose redevelopment is hindered by either real or perceived environmental contamination. Their redevelopment is pro-environment, pro-business, and pro-community.

"We thank Senators Frank Launtenberg (NJ), James Inhofe (OK), Tom Udall (NM), and Frank Crapo (ID) for coming together to introduce this much needed legislation, that will highly support city efforts to clean up abandoned or environmentally damaged properties," said Conference President Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter.

"Mayors have been battling challenges for years, on how to convert and reutilize brownfield sites and make them safely available to be used for areas such as housing, public parks and retail shopping sites. We highly commend leaders in the Senate for proposing to provide cities with the necessary support to make our cities more livable," said Elizabeth (NJ) Mayor Chris Bollwage, Chair of the Brownfields Taskforce at the Conference.

"The U.S. Conference of Mayors has been working on the issue of brownfield redevelopment since 1993 and was the lead organization to get the original brownfields law passed in 2002 and we’ve been working for its reauthorization for many years," said Conference CEO & Executive Director Tom Cochran. “We thank members of the U.S. Senate for continuing to advocate for such an important issue.”

The proposed bill includes many components that will improve the law that the Conference and the Brownfield Coalition advocated for including: Multipurpose Grants that will make redevelopment of these sites more flexible and market friendly; Increased Funding for Remediation Grants; and Allows non-profits and others to qualify for site assessment grants.

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