

Oregon Brownfield Coalition

House Bill 2518, Brownfield Properties Revitalization Fund

Formed in 2014, the Oregon Brownfield Coalition is a group of more than 50 public, private and nonprofit organizations dedicated to finding solutions to the statewide problem of brownfield contamination. Members of the Coalition have successfully advocated both for funding and for the creation of new policy tools through legislative proposals to advance brownfield remediation and cleanup across Oregon.

Past successes

2015: Recapitalization of Business Oregon's Brownfields Redevelopment Fund

2015: Passage of HB 2734, authorizing local governments to create brownfields land bank authorities

2016: Passage of HB 4084, authorizing local governments to offer property tax incentives for brownfield cleanup and redevelopment

2019: Recapitalization of Business Oregon's Brownfields Redevelopment Fund (funding rescinded when lottery bond sale was cancelled)

2021: Support HB 2518 to create a forgivable loan program to incentivize brownfield cleanups

HB 2518 would create a new fund, the Oregon Brownfield Properties Revitalization Fund, to provide forgivable loans to property owners and developers to subsidize the costs of brownfield cleanup. Loans would be forgiven upon project completion and demonstration of performance.

This incentive can help offset risks and costs of cleanup for sites that would otherwise remain polluted. The program would:

- be available only to landowners who did not cause, contribute to or exacerbate the contamination of their property
- have a per-project cap
- offer incentives for landowners to provide additional public benefits beyond the cleanup itself
- require property owners to conduct their remediation subject to DEQ oversight
- enhance cleanup and redevelopment opportunities in rural and distressed areas well as areas affected by wildfire

This program could support any work done to evaluate and clean up properties, including assessment, demolition, remediation and disposal. It would offer a statewide incentive to property owners and developers that might not otherwise explore development on known brownfields. The credit could increase development feasibility of key industrial and employment sites, as well as redevelopment opportunities statewide. Similar programs elsewhere have created thousands of jobs with relatively limited public investment.

Coalition members

1000 Friends of Oregon
Albina Community Bank
Allen Enterprises 2000
Association of Oregon Counties
Audubon Society of Portland
Beyond Toxics
Black Helterline LLP
Business Oregon
Cardno
Cities of Bend, Beaverton, Eugene, Gresham, Hillsboro, Medford, Milwaukie, Portland, Salem, Tigard, Wilsonville
Clackamas County
Clackamas County Business Alliance
Columbia Corridor Association
DEQ
Durham & Bates Insurance Brokers GEI Consultants
Dudek

IBEW
Jordan Ramis
League of Oregon Cities
Maul, Foster & Alongi
Metro
Multnomah County
Multnomah County Environmental Health
Native Plant Society of Oregon
NEEK Engineering
Neighborhood Partnerships
Northeast Oregon Economic Development District
Northwest Environmental Business Council
Oregon Business & Industry
Oregon Business Authority
Oregon Business Council
Oregon Coalition of Police/Sheriffs Oregon Health Authority
Oregon Home Builders Association
Oregon Opportunity Network
Oregon Public Ports Association

Oregon State Building & Construction Trades Council
Oregon State Chamber of Commerce
PBS Engineering + Environmental
Port of Portland
Portland Business Alliance
Portland Development Commission
Portland State University
Regional Solutions Center
Stoel Rives
Sussman Shank LLP
Terraphase Engineering
Tonkon Torp
US EPA Brownfields Program - Oregon
Verde NW
Washington County
Westside Economic Alliance
US Army Corps of Engineers

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