

December 13, 2021

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

On behalf of a diverse group of stakeholders from all corners of New York State, we thank you for your leadership as you continue to lead our economy forward and help New York communities sustainably recover. We have come together to urge you to support a long-term reauthorization of the Brownfields Cleanup Program and respectfully request that you include a proposal to renew the program for at least ten years as part of your Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Executive Budget.

The Brownfields Cleanup Program administered by the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is a remediation and redevelopment program aimed at revitalizing contaminated and blighted areas known as brownfield sites. Over the years, the Brownfields Cleanup Program has proved to be critical in our efforts to correct environmental injustices, combat neighborhood blight, and provide thousands of homes – including over 6,000 affordable housing units - statewide for New Yorkers who need it the most.

Since the last reauthorization of the program in 2015, [452 sites](#) in every county of the state have participated. Notably, nearly 50% of those projects have been located in Environmental Zones, defined by DEC as [areas with high rates of poverty and unemployment](#). The program has generated [\\$17.6 billion](#) in economic development activity thus far, with more benefits expected as more than 900 additional sites are pending completion in the coming years.

As stakeholders on this issue, we were pleased to see that earlier this year Senators Kennedy and Kaminsky and Assembly Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes introduced S7210/A8228 to renew, extend, and strengthen the program. Their action acknowledges that from Long Island to Buffalo, communities across New York rely on this program to promote stronger and healthier communities and to provide much needed housing opportunities.

This also affords the state a chance to strengthen the Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) Program by incentivizing brownfield projects within the more than 60 designated BOAs in disadvantaged and urban communities through enhanced BCP tax credits. We urge additional funding for the BOA Program and an expansion of the program to allow use of BOA funds for pre-development projects in designated communities.

We urge you to include a long-term reauthorization of the Brownfields Cleanup Program and enhanced Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program as part of your executive budget and look forward to working with you on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Timothy Foley

Chief Executive Officer

The Building & Reality Institute of Westchester & the Mid-Hudson Region

Rick Shoyer

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Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast

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WE ACT for Environmental Justice