

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We are writing to ask you to reject the proposed cuts in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Brownfields Program in the President's FY2019 budget request, and to include funding the program at the authorized amount. This important program drives economic growth by providing funds and technical assistance to assess and clean-up contaminated property sites for redevelopment, and helps promote successful local economic development in communities across the United States. Using funds from the Brownfields program, communities are able to convert liabilities into productive local assets. In the past, Brownfield funds have successfully laid the groundwork for manufacturing plants, commercial spaces, housing, community recreation facilities, and parks. Redeveloping contaminated properties creates jobs, improves environmental quality, and boosts local and state tax revenues.

As of March 1, 2018 the EPA's Brownfields program has assessed 27,689 properties, made 70,641 acres ready for reuse, leveraged the creation of 132,967 jobs, and \$25.264 billion in funding since the program's inception in 1995. Further, EPA has found that approximately \$16.99 is leveraged for each dollar the EPA Brownfields program spends and 8.9 jobs leveraged per \$100,000 of EPA brownfields funds expended on assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan fund cooperative agreements. A study found that residential property values increased 5% to 15.2% once a nearby brownfield was assessed or cleaned up. Analyzing data near 48 of those brownfields, another study found an estimated \$29 to \$97 million in additional tax revenue for local governments in a single year after cleanup—2 to 7 times more than the \$12.4 million EPA contributed to the cleanup of those brownfields.

Given the high success of EPA's Brownfields Program and its direct importance to economic recovery in rural and urban communities nationally, we are requesting that the program be adequately funded. While much has been done over the past two decades to clean-up and assess contaminated sites, a strong need still remains. EPA's Brownfields Program is making necessary investments that are helping to rebuild our country and to stimulate economic growth and jobs in our cities and towns.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We recognize that there are many competing priorities facing your subcommittee and we hope that you will support this program.

Sincerely,



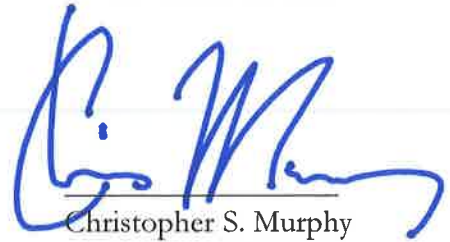
Kirsten Gillibrand
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
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United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
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United States Senator



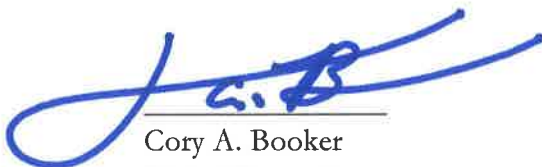
Christopher S. Murphy
Christopher S. Murphy
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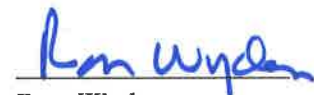
Margaret Wood Hassan
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United States Senator



Brian Schatz
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
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United States Senator



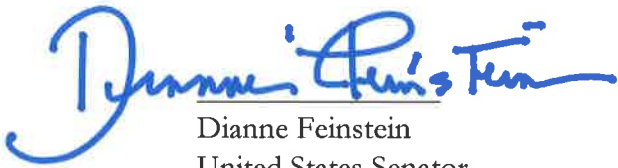
Ron Wyden
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United States Senator




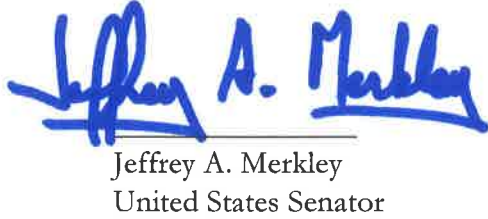
Thomas R. Carper
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United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
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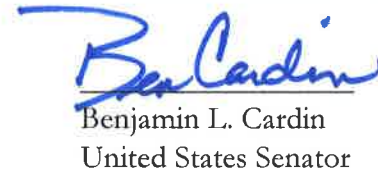

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

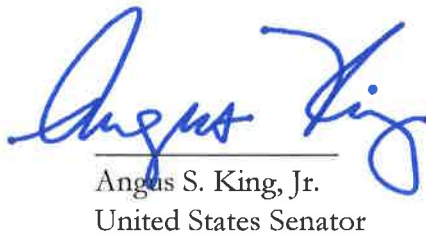

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

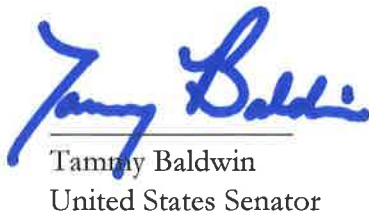

Mazie Hirono
United States Senator

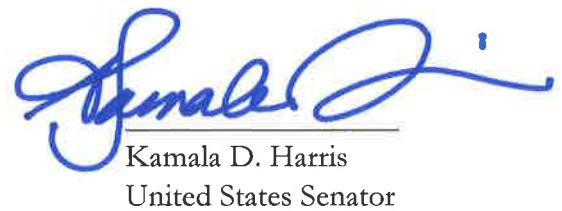

Robert Menendez
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Benjamin L. Cardin
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Angus S. King, Jr.
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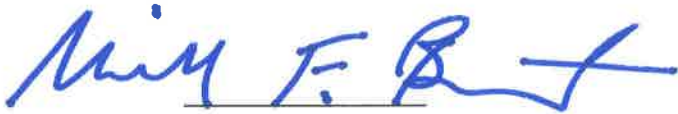

Debbie Stabenow
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Tammy Baldwin
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Kamala D. Harris
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Jack Reed
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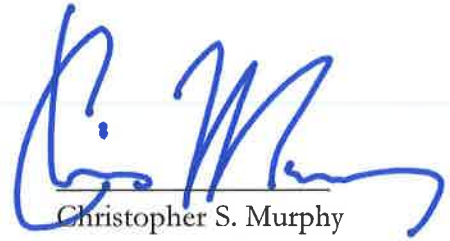
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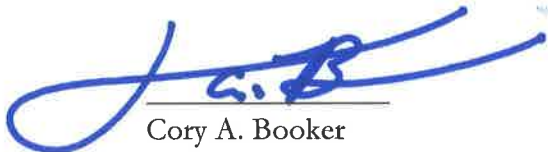
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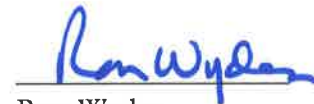
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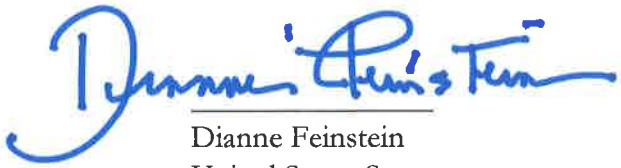
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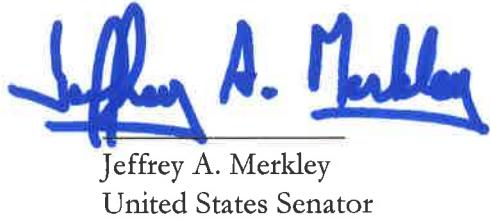
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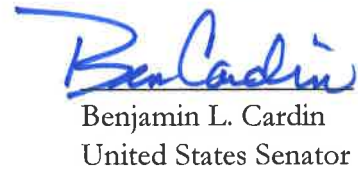

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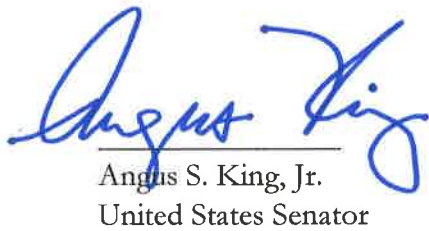

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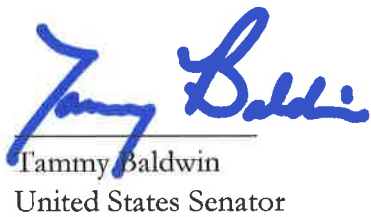

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