



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 10 1999

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Representative Edolphus Towns  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Towns:

I am writing to express the Clinton Administration's strong support for the "Community Revitalization and Brownfields Cleanup Act of 1999." This brownfield redevelopment legislation is an important step toward restoring hope, opportunities, and jobs to local communities and neighborhoods that are being held back by the presence of abandoned contaminated properties. This legislation builds upon the Clinton Administration's Brownfields initiative which is helping to generate economic redevelopment and creating jobs in cities, towns and communities throughout the Nation.

This bill would give communities the resources and tools they need to clean up brownfields and to revitalize their blighted communities. The bill would promote brownfield cleanups and development by providing grants and loans, and encourages private investment by providing appropriate liability protection to prospective purchasers, and contiguous property owners and clarifying liability protection for innocent land owners. Importantly, this bill preserves a crucial safeguard for communities, by ensuring that EPA has authority to protect human health and the environment where appropriate.

I am also encouraged that this bill meets the Administration's goal of focusing Superfund reform on proposals that have generated a broad consensus of Congressional and public support. This targeted legislative approach improves upon existing cleanup programs while avoiding contentious issues that undermined previous efforts at legislative reform. The Administration would like to continue to work with you on appropriate resource levels and other refinements to the bill. Ultimately, Superfund legislative reform must also reinstate the expired Superfund taxes that are needed to fund the ongoing Superfund cleanup effort.

The Clinton Administration looks forward to working with you and other Members of Congress to enact brownfields legislation and to address any concerns that may arise as the bill progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol M. Browner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carol" being the most prominent part of the script.

Carol M. Browner