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May 11, 1999

The Honorable Richard A. Gephardt  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gephardt:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Community Revitalization and Brownfield Cleanup Act of 1999. As you are well aware, the City of St. Louis faces many development challenges including the necessity of assessing, remediating and marketing numerous brownfields sites throughout the city. My administration is committed to ensuring that St. Louis remains a first-class city and is working tirelessly to revitalize and strengthen our community. Your bill illustrates Congress' commitment to these same goals.

We are dedicated to ensuring the availability of clean, desirable properties for new businesses that are interested in locating in the City of St. Louis or existing businesses that want to expand their operations. We must be able to compete with the "greenfields" that are so easily available to them further from the urban core. St. Louis and other urban centers must be "Ready To Do Business." This bill provides us with another tool to address this crucial issue and helps to create the incentives we need to convince companies to make their home in our city.

The unassailable fact is that we must find ways to return abandoned and underutilized urban commercial and industrial properties to productive use. These properties, when active, create jobs, capital and most important community stability. We, in St. Louis, have recognized that this effort must be cooperative, bringing together the resources and expertise of federal, state and local government in addition to the private sector. We are proud of the partnerships we have created and supported here and are grateful for your recognition, commitment and action in supporting our brownfields goals at the federal level.

Thank you and your colleagues for your attention and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clarence Harmon".

Clarence Harmon  
MAYOR