



Resolution 18 - 1
Approved March 22, 2018
St. Paul, Minnesota

As certified by
Sam Sankar
Executive Director

IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR BROWNFIELDS PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, brownfields programs represent the full spectrum of win-win, as on the environmental side, they transform blighted properties that pose environmental risks into clean residences, commercial space, parks, renewables sites, and other facilities, and on the economic front, they can serve as significant sources of revenue, as tax income on rehabilitated properties is generally greatly increased; and

WHEREAS, partnerships among state, local, and federal government; community organizations; and the private sector can make otherwise impossible cleanups possible, and investments from brownfields grants drive local governments and private industries to invest further in their communities; and

WHEREAS, a common goal of state brownfield programs is to make contaminated sites safe for reuse that creates jobs and spurs economic development within the communities in which the properties are located; and

WHEREAS, brownfields revitalization projects yield positive community impacts, and investment in these programs provides opportunities to implement innovative and sustainable solutions to problems faced by communities; and

WHEREAS, brownfields programs play an integral role in the redevelopment of infrastructure that has fallen out of use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF STATES (ECOS):

Requests that the U.S. Congress authorize multipurpose brownfields grants;

Requests that the U.S. Congress increase state response funding;

Requests congressional funding of administrative costs to reduce the burden states face as they work together with investors to create positive outcomes in redevelopment;

Requests congressional expansion of the ability of organizations to partner and invest in brownfields projects, which would allow communities to leverage greater amounts of capital for improved outcomes;

Urges congressional expansion of brownfields eligibility to nonprofit organizations, limited liability corporations, limited partnerships, and community development entities; and

Urges federal legislation that reduces the risk for investors to reuse existing infrastructure at properties that otherwise would go wasted, including allowing certain government entities that do not qualify as

bona fide prospective purchasers to be eligible to receive grants as long as the government entity did not cause or contribute to a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance at the property.