

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
2256 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dave Joyce
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
1124 Longworth HOB
U.S. House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

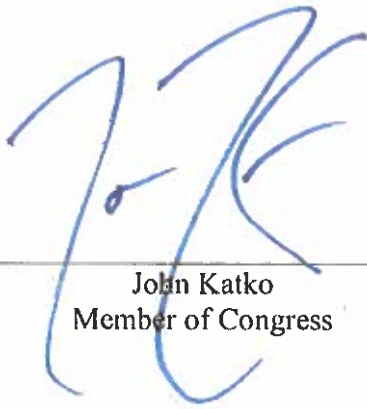
Out of concern for the cities and towns struggling to find the resources to redevelop the remaining 450,000 brownfields throughout our country, we write to urge you to provide robust funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program in the Fiscal Year 2021 Interior and Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. After receiving nearly unanimous support in the House, last Congress, legislation was signed into law that reauthorized the EPA's Brownfields Program at \$250 million per year through 2023.

EPA's investment over the program's history has leveraged \$31 billion in total investment, meaning each EPA Brownfields dollar expended leverages nearly \$17 in additional private and public financing for assessment and cleanup. This modest federal investment has also resulted in the assessment of more than 31,000 properties and helped to create more than 160,000 new jobs nationwide. EPA's program has made tremendous progress in accelerating the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites across the nation, such as gas stations and former industrial sites.

However, hundreds of thousands of other brownfield properties remain vacant and underutilized because of the lack of sufficient funding. In fact, the demand for brownfields funding continues to grow and EPA has only been able to fund about one-third of the applications it receives. With over 450,000 brownfield sites across the country, we simply cannot afford to miss the opportunity to fully fund EPA's Brownfields program - demonstrating our universal commitment to create jobs and strengthen the communities we are proud to represent. Increased investment will return brownfields to productive uses, generate additional tax revenues, improve the environment, and revitalize communities all over America.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We recognize that there are many competing priorities facing your Subcommittee, but we also believe that brownfields redevelopment is a foundation of economic growth and a vital component of community revitalization.

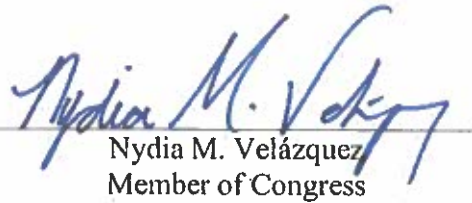
Sincerely,

A stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large 'J' and 'K'.

Joan Katko
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a large, looping 'A' and 'D'.

Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, clearly legible as 'Nydia M. Velázquez'.

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

