



H.R. 3017, the Brownfields Enhancement, Economic Redevelopment, and Reauthorization Act of 2017

What are Brownfields? The term 'brownfields' usually refers to abandoned or closed commercial or industrial properties that may be contaminated because of their prior use and these sites often have significant redevelopment potential.

Cleaning up and reinvesting in brownfields increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, takes development pressures off of undeveloped, open land, and both improves and protects the environment. EPA estimates that there are more than **450,000 brownfields** in the U.S.

What does the EPA Brownfields Program do? The EPA Brownfields Program provides grants, tools, and guidance to help states, communities and other stakeholders in the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of brownfields. **The program was originally authorized in 2002.**

As of May 1, 2017, the EPA Brownfields Program has assessed **26,722 sites** and leveraged **124,760 jobs**. The program has also leveraged almost 24 billion dollars for cleanup and redevelopment. On average, over \$16 is leveraged for every EPA brownfields dollar spent and 8.5 jobs are leveraged per \$100,000 of EPA brownfields funds.

H.R. 3017, the Brownfields Enhancement, Economic Redevelopment, and Reauthorization Act reauthorizes and makes several improvements to this important program that will result in more sites being cleaned up. The bill:

- ⚠ Creates multipurpose grants, which among other things will allow communities to use grant funds for both assessment and remediation and to clean up more than one site in a designated area.
- ⚠ Provides liability relief for states/local units of government that take title to contaminated property voluntarily by virtue of their function as a sovereign which will allow states and local governments to acquire abandoned or tax delinquent property that is contaminated and to clean up the property without fear of liability.
- ⚠ Increases the limit for remediation grants from \$200,000 to \$500,000 (with an exemption for up to \$750,000), which will allow communities to do more cleanup using grant funds.
- ⚠ Allows for the recovery of limited administrative costs.
- ⚠ Clarifies when a site contaminated by petroleum may be a brownfield site.
- ⚠ Expands grant eligibility for non-profit organizations and for publicly owned brownfield sites that acquired the property prior to January 11, 2002, which will put more parties into the mix of persons eligible for grant funding which will result in more sites being cleaned up.
- ⚠ Provides for additional grant funds that the States will be able to distribute to Indian tribes, small, rural, and disadvantaged communities.