



May 4, 2017

Grace Appelbe, Legislative Clerk  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Appelbe:

Thank you for providing the opportunity to respond to an additional question following the Subcommittee on Environment's April 4, 2017 hearing entitled "Discussion Draft: Brownfields Reauthorization".

I am enclosing my response to the question for the hearing record. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before the subcommittee on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Parris N. Glendening  
Maryland Governor, 1995-2003

Attachment



The Honorable Richard Hudson

**1. *In the Eighth District of North Carolina, which I am proud to represent, there are many small communities that are not able to support independent brownfield programs. Luckily, we have many regional councils such as the Centralina Council of Governments that apply for community-wide brownfield assessment grants. Do you see benefit in supporting a regional approach to these brownfield cleanup efforts? Would the multipurpose grants help facilitate these regional efforts?***

Thank you, Congressman Hudson, for the question. I am honored to work with you and the Committee on this very important issue.

There is a major benefit to a regional approach to brownfield cleanup and redevelopment, as advanced by the Centralina Council of Governments and similar organizations elsewhere. It invests taxpayer money more efficiently and gets better results for communities. It also helps to prioritize those sites in the region with the greatest market reuse potential and the greatest threat to human health if not cleaned up.

Across the country, I have seen regional organizations foster the exchange of best practices and promote local coordination of investments including infrastructure, housing, brownfield cleanup, and economic development. Multi-purpose grants, if funded, would enable more comprehensive cleanup and economic development strategy by providing regional organizations the flexibility needed to respond to local challenges. This will ultimately lead to greater job creation, economic development, and private investment in the region.

As a Governor, I can tell you regional organizations play a significant role to reducing government red tape associated with managing state and federal programs and requirements. One-stop shop, regional organizations have the capacity to consolidate and streamline processes. For smaller communities that do not have staff capacity to seek federal and state assistance on their own, this is extremely important because it provides needed staff and administrative capacity to these local governments. A regional approach creates a greater level of clarity on the rules and improves the private sector's level of confidence to invest in the region.

Thank you for your support of these important programs.

Sincerely,

Parris N. Glendening  
Maryland Governor, 1995-2003