Ready for Reuse: Legislative Proposals to Unleash the Potential of America's Brownfields Sites

Subcommittee on Environment, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Full Committee Chairman Brett Guthrie

Opening Statement

March 4, 2026

Thank you, Chairman Palmer, for holding this hearing, and thank you to our witnesses for joining as well.

The EPA's Brownfields Grant Program has had bipartisan support and served as an important tool for remediating contaminated sites and restoring them to productive use for more than two decades.

The last reauthorization of this program occurred in 2018, and expired at the end of Fiscal Year 2023. When authorizations lapse, agencies are forced to make decisions based on outdated guidance from Congress, so we're here today to discuss four bills to provide direction to EPA on how to best serve those we represent back home.

The first three bills on today's hearing agenda would support both the cleanup and re-use of brownfield sites by removing barriers to the cleanup of contaminated sites, maximizing the value of taxpayer funding, and incentivizing re-use of brownfields for onshoring manufacturing, building AI data centers, and many other productive uses—instead of forcing new industry growth to turnover fresh, greenfield sites.

The proposals before us today will accelerate the remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites, including the more complicated or larger sites, while helping find locations for much-needed infrastructure. The minority's bill would lock in elevated funding levels and make more modest policy changes to the Brownfields Program. However, taxpayer funds cannot be the only solution. We need creative solutions, and that requires the private sector, localities, states, and tribes to all come together.

I'm confident that we can deliver more innovative solutions this Congress if everyone is willing to come to the table.

I look forward to a robust discussion today and continued engagement with all interested parties on these issues.

Thank you, and I yield back.