

BRETT GUTHRIE, KENTUCKY
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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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September 25, 2026

Mr. Chris Wells
Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
President
Environmental Council of The States
P.O. Box 2261
Jackson, MS 39225

Dear Mr. Wells:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environment on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, to testify at the hearing entitled “Ready for Reuse: Legislative Proposals to Unleash the Potential of America’s Brownfields Sites.”

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Friday, October 23, 2026. Your responses should be mailed to Seth Ricketts Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed to Seth.Ricketts@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Palmer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary Palmer
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

cc: Paul Tonko, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Brett Guthrie (R-KY)

1. In your opening statement, you cited the value of federal brownfields funding combined with state brownfields program support, liability protections, and incentives. What are some of these state-level incentives that have been effective?
2. You stated that the brownfields program works because it removed uncertainty at the local level for the community and potential investors, with liability protection giving private investors confidence.
 - a. What type of liability protection does Mississippi offer, and how does it work?
 - b. Are there are elements that could be adopted at the federal level?
3. In response to a question from Representative Joyce, you discussed the existing revolving loan program, including concerns about duplicative programs, and indicated that there were some good ideas associated with the new loan and loan guarantee programs proposed in the Brownfields Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act. Do you have any suggestions for Congress or the EPA to help improve or enhance the existing revolving loan program?
4. In an exchange with Representative Miller-Meeks, you stated, “I think the issue, in all candor, the issue with the pilot program for the loan portion of it, I think there are some issues there I think we can work through, because I think that incentivizing private investment is also a key part of the future success of the program.” Is there anything else you would like to add regarding opportunities to incentivize private investment?

The Honorable Robert Latta (R-OH)

1. Have there been any examples of successful brownfields redevelopment at former energy sites in Mississippi?
 - a. If so, what type of sites were they?
 - b. Do you have any recommendations as we look for opportunities to return these to productive reuse?