



PROVIDE RESOURCES TO REMEDIATE BROWNFIELDS URGE THE HOUSE TO TAKE ACTION ON THE BUILD ACT

BACKGROUND: In June 2015, U.S. Senators Inhofe (R-OK) and Markey (D-MA) re-introduced the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development (BUILD) Act (S. 1479), which would reauthorize the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program. Since 2002, the program has funded the rehabilitation of abandoned and polluted properties to increase safety and attract new businesses to communities across the country.

In June 2016, the U.S. Senate approved the BUILD Act by unanimous consent

The bill contains a NADO-supported provision that, for the first time, will allow EPA Brownfields grant recipients the ability to use up to 8 percent of their grant to cover administrative costs. Currently, administrative costs are specifically excluded as an eligible use of Brownfields funds.

The bill increases the limit for site remediation grants from the current \$200,000 to \$500,000 per site, and gives the EPA Administrator discretion to raise the limit further to \$650,000. In addition, the bill authorizes EPA to prioritize technical assistance to small communities, Indian tribes, rural communities, or low income areas with populations below 15,000 when applying for grants under the Brownfields program.

ACTION NEEDED: The 114th Congress adjourned in December 2016 without taking final action on S. 1479. NADO will be working to advance this legislation in the new Congress.

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