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State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Representative Jeffrey J. Berger
Deputy Speaker
73rd Assembly District
Waterbury

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
860-240-8500 or 800-842-1902
Jeffrey.Berger@cga.ct.gov

Representative Jeffrey Berger

In support of

**HB 6651 - AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE OF
CONNECTICUT BROWNFIELDS WORKING GROUP**

Key Points

- ❖ This bill consolidates and reorganizes the laws governing several brownfield remediation and development programs.
- ❖ In doing so, it makes it easier for private and nonprofit developers and municipal and state economic development and environmental protection to access identify and access these programs.
- ❖ This bill is the work of the Brownfield Working Group, which began meeting over 5 years ago to find ways to clean up and restore blighted and contaminated land and structures to productive uses.
- ❖ The legislature enacted most of the group's recommendations, which provided more tools for this purpose
- ❖ The legislature enacted most of the group's recommendations, which provided more tools for this purpose.
- ❖ (General Assembly, committees and etc.)
- ❖ Establish a Brownfield specific chapter in statues with formal Declaration of Policy to provide for ease in cross referencing and consistency in definitions
- ❖ Establish Office of Brownfield's Remediation & Development. (*Currently in 32-9cc*)
(DIRECTOR LEVEL POSITION)
- ❖ Consolidation of multiple Brownfield accounts. Need to assure that account created would have ability to receive deposit of block grants approved by Bond Commission (Consolidator) and deposit of any loan repayments.
- ❖ *New Section 5* - Cleanup legislation so that there exists one Grant Program and one Loan Program through elimination of outdated and unused programs. Utilize State of (*Illinois*) Program as model for streamlining.
- ❖ Liability Relief (and Transfer Act). Assuring the same applies to both grant and loan programs moving forward
- ❖ My recommendation is for funding \$50 million in Biennial budget - \$25 million for each budget year – HB 6174, also in your committee, could be a vehicle for the funding component