



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE on ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS

CHAIRMAN SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

S. 347 - the Brownfields Reauthorization Act of 2025

Sponsored by Chairman Shelley Moore Capito and Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester

BACKGROUND:

Contaminated and abandoned industrial sites, known as brownfields, disproportionately impact rural and low-income communities. These sites depress property values, reduce economic activity, increase crime rates, and pose ongoing environmental and public health risks. While the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program has successfully cleaned up contaminated sites since 1995, the program's complex requirements and competitive grant application creates barriers that prevent small and underserved communities from fully benefitting.

PURPOSE:

The Brownfields Reauthorization Act of 2025 reauthorizes and modernizes the EPA's Brownfields Program through Fiscal Year 2030. The bill streamlines the complex application process that has historically limited small and underserved communities from accessing cleanup resources.

REDUCING FINANCIAL BARRIERS FOR SMALL AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

To expand access to Brownfields Program resources, the bill addresses cost-prohibitive barriers impacting small and underserved communities by:

- Helping smaller communities compete more effectively with larger entities that have more resources to absorb overhead costs;
- Reducing the cost-share requirement from 20 percent to 10 percent;
- Providing cost-share waivers for small and underserved communities; and
- Streamlining the application process to make it more accessible for smaller communities.

EXPANDING CLEANUP RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Since Congress last established maximum grant amounts – both the size of proposed Brownfields projects, as well as construction costs – have significantly increased. The Brownfields Reauthorization Act of 2025 updates the program's grant amounts to match current construction costs and project sizes – aligning them with the reality of doing business today by:

- Doubling maximum site cleanup grants from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000;
- Increasing state program funding to \$75 million annually by 2030; and
- Improving competitive grant criteria to better align with local redevelopment needs.