

Accelerate local redevelopment of legacy contamination sites

Assessment and cleanup of brownfield sites would foster new economic development

Challenge

Contaminated brownfield sites, once home to gas stations, dry cleaners, and manufacturing facilities, dot the Minnesota landscape. Many of these sites reside in low-income communities of color. If not properly addressed, these properties can present risks to human health and the environment. When properly managed and cleaned up, these sites can yield exciting and innovative community and economic development opportunities.



Proposal

Governor Walz proposes \$1 million from the General Fund to create a state-funded brownfield assessment grant program to support community-based redevelopments located in low-income and traditionally underserved communities throughout Minnesota. Since 1995, successful brownfield development projects have created or retained more than 50,000 jobs and created more than 20,000 housing units in Minnesota.

Why it's important

Without the critical dollars to assess contaminated sites in underserved communities, they remain blighted, vacant, and underdeveloped. The costs associated with assessing a brownfield site and defining a cleanup plan prevent many community-based redevelopment projects from moving forward and realizing their full potential. Consequently, redevelopment of brownfield sites frequently do not consider the types of redevelopment that would best serve the community.

For more information

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