



CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA CARSON
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

**Opening Statement: H.R. 2941,
Brownfield's Redevelopment Enhancement Act**

Brownfields remediation has been fundamental to an aggressive urban redevelopment initiative undertaken by my District. With the assistance of HUD and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Indiana Office of Land Quality has been able to identify and redevelop numerous brownfield sites in Indianapolis. This has brought about the improved social and financial condition of several struggling neighborhoods.

More importantly, the clean up of brownfields have contributed to the health and well being of children living in blighted neighborhoods. Children living in urban areas are sometimes attracted to vacant lots, especially if there are few parks or other greenspaces available in the neighborhood. Families living in blighted neighborhoods can go through several different housing situations in relatively short amount of time, making them unaware of just what took place on those lots before they were vacated. It's hard to tell what manner of toxic, poisonous chemicals children and their families may be exposed to until brownfields are identified and cleaned.

Brownfields are not a purely environmental matter; they damage every aspect of a community's life. I am pleased that this Committee has recognized the vital importance of redeveloping brownfields for strengthening communities. I am looking forward to hearing about this important bipartisan measure today.