

# **Statement of Congresswoman Sue Kelly House Committee on Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity Hearing on H.R. 2941, the Brownfields Redevelopment Act**

**Wednesday, March 6, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. in 2128 Rayburn**

Chairwoman Roukema, Ranking Member Frank I want to thank you both for calling for today's hearing on Congressman Gary Miller's legislation, H.R. 2941, the Brownfields Redevelopment Act. Brownfields redevelopment is an issue of critical importance for our Nation, as a whole.

As we talk about the need for saving green spaces, we also need to look at what we have in terms of spaces that we might be able to rehabilitate for human habitation and to return these properties as tax ratables on our communities' rolls. We must ensure that any planned growth of communities have the greatest possible clean up and redevelopment of their contaminated properties. Otherwise growth will continue the trend of sacrificing more and more of our open spaces as we simply abandon from areas that we have harmed.

I believe making progress on this issue is something that will require local as well as State and Federal working together, partnerships. Congressman Miller has introduced his Brownfields Redevelopment Act in an effort for the Federal government to assist localities in this effort. This legislation makes a good step in the right direction and as a cosponsor it has my full support.

I want to take a moment to thank your witnesses for taking the time out of their busy schedules to discuss these issues with us. In addition, I ask the chairwoman's indulgence since I will not be able to stay for the full hearing today, however, this is due to too many other obligations and is not a reflection of any lack of interest on my part.