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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Community Planning and Development

Andrew Cuomo, Secretary

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## EZ/EC News Flash

Flash Fax #39

April 26, 2000

### U.S. Conference of Mayors Brownfields Report

According to a new survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the redevelopment of the nation's remaining brownfields represents a potential \$2.4 billion in additional annual tax revenue and the creation of more than 550,000 new jobs. The USCM reported its findings based on a survey of 21,178 brownfield sites in 210 cities. Of the survey group, brownfields in 202 cities comprise 125,356 acres, or an average of more than 620 acres per city. Experts believe an estimated 600,000 brownfields exist nationwide.

City officials participating in the survey noted that an increase in their tax bases was the most important benefit of potential redevelopment. Other frequently cited benefits included job creation, neighborhood revitalization and environmental protection.

Of the 231 cities that responded to the survey, more than half reported a partnership with their states to address brownfields redevelopment, while about one-third indicated a partnership with their counties for this purpose. These percentages are higher than city-state or city-county partnerships dealing with urban sprawl or open space and farmland preservation.

So what is retarding brownfields redevelopment? Nine out of 10 cities identified a lack of cleanup funds. Seven out of 10 cited liability issues that hold them back, while 60 percent reported the need to simply assess the properties.

Questions? The report *Recycling America's Land: A National Report on Brownfields Redevelopment* is available from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 1620 Eye Street NW, Washington, DC 20006; phone 202/293-7330; fax 202/293-2352; internet address [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).