



# Monroe County Legislature

**CYNTHIA W. KALEH**

LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 28

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April 7, 2008

To the Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
407 County Office Building  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, New York 14614

<b>OFFICIAL FILE COPY</b>
No. <u>080128</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
<b>Memorializing Referral</b> -L

**Re: Memorializing the U.S. Congress to Pass and President George W. Bush to Sign into Law HR 5469, the Waterfront Brownfields Revitalization Act**

Monroe County is blessed with abundant freshwater resources. With an extensive shoreline along Lake Ontario, the Genesee River and the Erie Canal, access to these waters served as the driving force in the prosperous, innovative-rich history of the Greater Rochester metropolitan area. However, as the age of industrialism boomed, our environment suffered. Brownfields are especially common in New York's older industrial cities, including Rochester. Because the Great Lakes house the largest deposit of accessible potable water in the world, we bear an extraordinary responsibility to maintain and promote the greater ecological health of Ontario, as well as of all the Great Lakes.

The blight of brownfield communities can pose both health threats and obstacles to economic redevelopment. Undeveloped urban land when remediated and shovel ready can be an asset for future development. Left in a contaminated state the same land is a fiscal burden, and an obstacle to economic development, revenue generation or contribution to the tax base. Municipalities left with properties, due to owner abandonment, which on examination are labeled contaminated, are confronted with the need to remediate at the expense of the taxpayer or leave the property abandoned and worthless. If land is left in a contaminated state the cost of abatement further impedes the sale of any property to potential developers and poses both health threats and obstacles for economic development for future generations.


Congresswoman Louise Slaughter has submitted proposed legislation, H.R. 5469, called the Waterfront Brownfields Revitalization Act. If adopted, this bill will establish a program providing federal grant monies to local governments with the flexibility to be used in any efforts to remediate and redevelop these industrial properties. Not only will this legislation aid to improve the ecological health of our community, but will also become an important









economic development tool to our area, rejuvenating the historical epicenter of growth and innovation as Rochester once was.


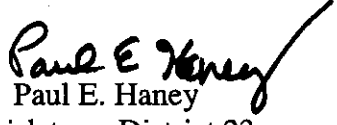

Therefore, we ask you to join us in memorializing the U.S. Congress to readily pass, and President George W. Bush to sign into law H.R. 5469, the Waterfront Brownfields Revitalization Act, and help restore vibrancy to these industrial properties once again.


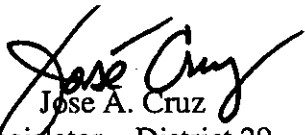
Respectfully submitted,

  
Cynthia W. Kaleh  
Legislator - District 28

    
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Democratic Minority Leader      Assistant Minority Leader      Legislator - District 6

    
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