



West Virginia University

Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center

May 25, 2010

A. David Hamill
Mayor
City of Ranson
312 S. Mildred St
Ranson, WV 25438

RE: Support for Brownfield Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program

Dear Mayor,

I am writing today to offer the Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center's (NBAC) support for the City of Ranson's Brownfield Area-wide Planning Pilot Program. Our group has been impressed with the progress made thus far toward the revitalization of vacant factories and the dilapidated housing that surround them. In addition, we feel that the City has shown real leadership in tackling this long-standing problem as is evident through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) funding of multiple assessment grants in your brownfields impacted community. I would also like to note that the City is selected as one of the first fifteen FOCUS WV Brownfields mini-grants funded through the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. I believe the planning pilot program would enable the city to continue the progress made to date.

I would also like to offer support for the City's comprehensive approach towards restoring the economic prosperity of these former industrial areas. Often, closed factories are seen as the only problem without considering the economic decline of the adjacent neighborhoods. It is our understanding that this grant will enable you to continue your efforts to identify barriers to redevelopment throughout our core, not just on single parcels. Our group sincerely values smart growth redevelopment principles, so we see the City as a valued partner in planning urban core revitalization opportunities.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input into your proposal for a United States Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Area-wide Planning Pilot Program. If you should be so fortunate as to receive this pilot grant, please be assured that NBAC is committed to participate as a community stakeholder in this program.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kirby
Director

Phone: 304-293-2867
ext. 5459
Fax: 304-293-7822

A Program of the West Virginia Water Research Institute

PO Box 6064
Morgantown, WV 26506-6064

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution