



F R O M	Name & Title	Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D. Commissioner of Health 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street		
	Subject	Council Bill 08-0093R		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o
409 City Hall

December 18, 2008

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to supply testimony to Council Bill 08-0093R. The purpose of the Bill is to request an inter-agency coordination between the Fire Chief, Health Commissioner, and Housing Commissioner in regards to the identification, decommissioning, dismantling and/or closure of facilities located on brownfield sites.

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), through its Brownfields Initiative program, currently coordinates the majority of the City's brownfield reclamation efforts. BDC is advised by the Baltimore Brownsfields Industrial Redevelopment Council, which consists of members from business, community and government stakeholders and experts. In addition, it works closely with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) in redeveloping brownfield sites.

Both BDC and MDE have acquired expertise on brownfield related issues. BDC has also received several grants from the federal Environmental Protection Agency specifically for brownfield related-projects. As of October 2007, 30 brownfield projects in the City have been completed. The BDC's Baltimore Brownfield Initiative will provide a cleaner environment, expanded job opportunities, an increased tax base and the preservation of open space.

BCHD supports environmental remediation and restoration of brownfield sites and believes that the reclamation of brownfield sites can benefit the community both economically and environmentally. BCHD will participate and provide support to this inter-agency coordination as needed.

Cc: Angela Gibson

