

April 7, 2008 - Slaughter Applauds EPA Selection of Youngstown for Brownfields Cleanup Grant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep.
Slaughter Applauds EPA Selection of

Village of Youngstown for \$110,000 Brownfields Cleanup Grant

WASHINGTON, DC - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, today applauded the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to award the Village of Youngstown with a \$110,000 brownfields cleanup grant. These funds will be used to clean up the Youngstown Cold Storage site at 701 Nancy Price Drive.

"Abandoned
factories, dilapidated mills, and underutilized ports scatter the

metropolitan areas and shores across Western New York, threatening to derail community efforts to reinvigorate their downtowns and attract tourists," said Rep. Slaughter. "I am very pleased that the Environmental Protection Agency has selected the Village of Youngstown for a brownfields cleanup grant. This federal assistance will give a much needed boost to the local economy by providing the community with the resources to revitalize the area and remove any leftover hazardous materials."

Rep. Slaughter recently introduced H.R. 5469, the Waterfront Brownfields Revitalization Act, legislation that provides support to communities seeking to overcome the unique challenges of revitalizing waterfront brownfield properties.

BACKGROUND

EPA BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

CLEANUP GRANT

EPA has selected the Village of Youngstown for a brownfields cleanup grant worth \$110,000 for hazardous substances. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the Youngstown Cold Storage site at 701 Nancy Price Drive. The site was once used to wash, store, and pack locally grown apples. Buildings and soil on the site are contaminated with volatile organic compounds, PCBs, metals, and inorganic contaminants. Grant funds also will be used to support community outreach activities.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Village of Youngstown was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Located in northwestern Niagara County, the Village of Youngstown the negative impact on adjacent property values and increase the village's tax revenues. (population 1,957) is a small rural community. The stability of the population, quality of waterfront and interior parks, and diversity of new businesses have helped the village maintain its reputation for having the best small village quality of life in western New York. However, due to its small size, cleanup of the Youngstown Cold Storage site would cost over 10 percent of the annual village budget. The site is situated in the middle of a residential area, next to a park. The city plans to clean up the property, remove the health hazards to citizens who walk through the site and play in the nearby park, and market it to developers. Redevelopment of the site is expected to reduce

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