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THE SENATE  
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Sen. Grisanti Statement: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Brownfields Forum  
January 17, 2012

Greetings and congratulations to New Partners for Community Revitalization and all of you who are participating in this 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Brownfields Forum. I am sorry I cannot be with you, but the Legislature is in session and the Governor is releasing his budget in Albany today.

The cleanup of legacy brownfields and the revitalization of New York's older, urban communities are of critical importance to job creation and the state's economic future. In my part of the state, especially in Buffalo and the City of Niagara Falls, brownfields are a major drag on our economy. Getting these sites cleaned up and back into productive use is one of my top priorities. I believe that the Brownfield Opportunity Areas program is an innovative and critical part of the state's economic development and job creation strategy. That's why I have just introduced legislation to strengthen the BOA program and make it even more effective. This bill will increase the state's ability to cost effectively coordinate the myriad agencies and programs needed to achieve economic revitalization and it will also make BOA funds more flexible to achieve communities' goals and timeframes.

I am pleased that there are many Western New York communities included among the more than 100 BOA projects in the state. I look forward to working with all of you in the weeks and months ahead to improve the state's brownfield programs, especially BOA. Together we will strengthen regional economic development, create jobs and protect public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Grisanti', written over a horizontal line.

Mark J. Grisanti

Chairman, Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation