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Joe Courtney
Congress of the United States
2nd District, Connecticut

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January 14, 2013

Mr. Alan Peterson
Targeted Brownfields Assessment Program Lead
US Environmental Protection Agency- Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Dear Mr. Peterson:

I write in strong support of the Targeted Assessment Grant application of the Town of Plainfield, CT. This grant will provide the necessary assessments in order for the Town of Plainfield to move forward towards final remediation of the former InterRoyal Site. This parcel, located in the heart of Plainfield's town center, has not provided positive economic enterprise since 1995.

The site represents a major source of blight for the Village Center of Plainfield and has been identified in the Plan of Conservation and Development as the main project to be completed that will lead to other investments in the village center. The sixteen acre site holds significant threats to public health as the brooks that pass through the site have been identified with groundwater contamination with chromium, nickel, SVOCs and chlorinated VOCs. The remaining buildings on the site have been identified with asbestos, mercury and lead-based paint.

As your agency is well aware, federal funds have already been awarded for the InterRoyal site through EPA's Brownfield Assessment Grant Phase I and Phase II. Recently I attended a meeting with Kurt Spaulding EPA's regional administrator and First Selectman Paul Sweet to brief his team on the stagnant status of the brownfield, and Mr. Sweet confirmed the resources which EPA has invested to date. The town is grateful for that help but still struggling to get InterRoyal in a marketable state.

EPA's commitment to this project in Plainfield, CT has been demonstrated throughout this results-oriented program and I believe completion may be achieved with this grant opportunity, therefore; I robustly submit to you that this project has all of the necessary components used to demonstrate the necessity, effectiveness and urgency of this program. The mission of EPA to clean up our neighborhoods and further the positive economic engine of a community devastated by the exodus of the textile industry in New England can be advanced with this award.

If I can be of any further assistance with this application please contact Sherri Vogt on my staff in the Norwich District Office at 860-886-0139 or you can contact me in Washington, D.C. at 202-225-2076.

Sincerely yours,

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress