

farther and farther outward, taking jobs with them and leaving cities empty.

For its part, the Federal Government sometimes spent more time haggling over regulatory details than it did working with States and cities to fix the problem. The old way of doing things was to mandate, regulate, and litigate. That began to change a few years ago as some States, such as Pennsylvania, and some communities and local businesses began to work together in a constructive relationship to find positive solutions to the brownfield problem. And the Federal Government began to help by pursuing a more cooperative approach with regulatory relief, with loans, and with technical support.

Here at the Millennium Corporate Center, if people take time to find out what happened, you'll see the possibilities of what can happen when people work together. For a long time this site was the site of a steel foundry. After the foundry closed, the property sat in disrepair. Finally, with a grant from the EPA, Montgomery County began to work to turn things around. Then O'Neill came in with private investment, and he received cooperation at every level of government. This place is a good place to work. It is now a good place to live. And there are going to be more people employed here than before. This is an example of what can happen, of what is possible.

And the bill I am about the sign will enable this success to be repeated many times over, all over America. It gives protection against lawsuits to prospective buyers and others who didn't create the brownfields but want to help clean them up and develop them. And it will help strengthen State cleanup programs, with more Federal funding and less Federal meddling. My budget for next year will meet this commitment by requesting that Congress double EPA's brownfields funding.

The law will also make way for the creation of more jobs. As the employees here

know, when a business develops a brownfield, it turns a stagnant plot of land into a productive neighborhood. What we ought to be asking in America is, what does it take to create more jobs? Sure, we want those who have been affected by 9/11 to be helped with an unemployment check, but what they really want is a permanent paycheck. In all public policy—public policy ought to figure out ways to make sure that the entrepreneurs can succeed, so that there is job creation taking place all over the country. This is a good jobs creation bill.

Further benefit will come as businesses recycle older properties and spare surrounding lands from development. There has been a lot of talk about urban sprawl. Well, one of the best ways to arrest urban sprawl is to develop brownfields and make them productive pieces of land where people can find work and employment. By one estimate, for every acre of redeveloped brownfields, we save 4½ acres of open space.

This legislation will also protect small-business owners from unwarranted Superfund liability. Lawyers and governments used to tell small-business owners that because they sent their trash to a landfill and because that landfill became contaminated, they were potentially liable for cleaning up the entire site. When Government acts in such a heavy-handed way, it hurts a lot of people; it works against its own purposes; it discourages small-business growth. With this bill, we are returning common sense to our cleanup program. We will protect innocent small-business owners and employees from unfair lawsuits and focus our efforts, instead, on actually cleaning up contaminated sites.

Environmental protection and economic growth can go on together. It is possible for the two to exist, if we're wise about public policy. And the law that I'm about to sign is good public policy. It's got a lot of common sense in it. It's wise. It