

Senator Gallivan Supports Extension of Brownfield Cleanup Program, But Not New Fee

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Senator Patrick M. Gallivan (R-C, Elma) is urging leaders in the NYS Senate to reject a proposed new application fee as part of the state's Brownfield Cleanup Program. Under the governor's fiscal 2023 budget plan, the popular redevelopment program would be extended for another 10 years, but applicants would be required to pay a nonrefundable program fee of \$50,000.

Brownfield land is any previously developed land not currently in use that may be potentially contaminated. In most cases, the land was used for industrial or commercial purposes with known or suspected contamination.

Senator Gallivan said the program should be extended, but the application fee should be dropped.

"The Brownfield Cleanup Program has been essential in redeveloping hazardous properties, protecting public health and revitalizing neighborhoods, and I support extending the program through 2032," Senator Gallivan said. "However, imposing a \$50,000 application fee will likely discourage participation in this program, especially in Western New York and the upstate region. I believe the new fee will do more harm than good."

The goal of the Brownfield Cleanup Program is to encourage private-sector cleanup of brownfields and to promote their redevelopment as a means to revitalize economically blighted communities. The program provides tax incentives to developers.

In 2021, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation issued 42 certificates of completion and accepted 90 new sites into the program, helping to protect public health and the environment across New York State, while revitalizing neighborhoods and strengthening local economies.