

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery  
of  
Member Nanette Diaz Barragán**

***Markup of 3 Bills, Subcommittee on Environment***

**May 14, 2026**

Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Families across the country are still living near contaminated sites that need to be cleaned up. It makes no sense that this bill makes deep cuts to the Brownfields Program . Brownfields is one of the few programs in Washington that has support from both parties because it works. It helps communities clean up contaminated land, protect public health, and turn abandoned properties into places people can use again.

At a time when communities across the country are asking for more help, not less, Republicans want to cut this program in half. Apparently, there is always money for another billionaire tax break, another Trump vanity project like a ballroom, or a war with Iran. But when it comes to cleaning up toxic sites in American communities, suddenly they say we cannot afford it. That makes no sense to the families who live near these contaminated properties every day.

In my district, the Brownfields Program secured a \$1.8 million cleanup grant in Carson. The funding is helping clean up the former Fletcher Oil and Refining Company site, a 36-acre property contaminated by oil in the soil and groundwater after decades of industrial activity. Because of this investment, that land can finally be put to productive use again. The site will become part of the Pure Water Southern California project, one of the largest recycled water projects in the world. That means local jobs and a more reliable clean water supply for our communities.

Communities in Republican states depend on this program too. In Maysville, Kentucky, Brownfields funding is helping turn an abandoned hospital site into housing. In Ranson, West Virginia, Brownfields funding is helping clean up an old manufacturing site so it can be turned into housing, shops, and jobs.

That is what the Brownfields Program does. It takes polluted land that has been sitting unused for years and turns it into something that benefits the community. Cutting this program in half will not help working families. It will slow down cleanups, delay projects, and leave communities behind.

We should be investing more in the Brownfields Program, not less. I urge my colleagues to reject this proposed cut.

I yield back.