

Washington - Today, Congressman John Olver (1st District) and Senator John Kerry announced a \$200,000 grant to help fund the cleanup of the West Springfield Trade Center property, located in the middle of the Merrick industrial district. "This funding is a boost to our efforts to revitalize downtown West Springfield. We must ensure that the cleanup of the Merrick industrial district is done in a way that promotes economic growth and a healthy business climate. Economic growth requires both a healthy environment and a healthy business climate. Both Olver and Kerry wrote letters in support of the town's application to the EPA. Senator Kerry said, "The Brownfields effort represents the marriage of sound environmental policy and economic development. EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states and localities to clean up and reuse brownfields in a way that promotes economic growth and a healthy business climate."

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