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For Immediate Release

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Washington D.C. - Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority has received two Brownfield grants totaling \$1.2 million from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA Brownfield program encourages redevelopment of former industrial and commercial sites in communities across the country.

"The Johnstown Redevelopment Authority has a successful history of reviving properties with various environmental problems into ready-to-use locations for business and job growth," Murtha said.

The Johnstown Redevelopment Authority will use a \$200,000 assessment grant to identify and collect data throughout the Greater Johnstown community on environmentally deficient properties. A \$1,000,000 grant will give the Authority a brownfield revolving loan fund to provide grants and loans to support cleanup activities for sites contaminated with hazardous substances.

"Since the demise of Bethlehem Steel, which previously controlled most industrial property in Johnstown, the Redevelopment Authority has accepted the challenge to cleanup these sites for productive reuse. The Congressman and EPA have enabled us to meet this challenge," said Ron Repak, Executive Director of the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority.

The EPA will present a check to the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority this Friday, May 18, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Blacksmith Shop, Cambria Iron Works.