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The LSPA: Working to Clean Up Massachusetts

Massachusetts is proud of its industrial history and the role it played in propelling the nation to economic prosperity and prominence. The residue of that history – contaminated sites concentrated mostly in urban areas – has contributed to a decline of inner city neighborhoods and decreased tax revenues from once productive properties.

Licensed Site Professionals (LSPs) are scientists and engineers experienced in the assessment and cleanup of oil and hazardous material contamination.

The LSP Association (LSPA) is a professional association with approximately 1,000 members. It was founded in 1993 with a mission to promote sound business and technical practices among member LSPs. The LSPA represents its membership concerning the standards of practice and the roles and responsibilities of the LSP, and serves as an education, information and communication resource to its membership and the general public.

The LSPA supports an aggressive agenda that protects the health and safety of Massachusetts citizens while expediting the cleanup and reuse of blighted, contaminated properties. This year, the LSPA is:

- Making a final push to secure legislative approval for a bill that requires homeowner insurance policies to cover releases from subsurface oil lines. Despite the horror stories of lost homes and destroyed lives, there has been strong resistance to passing the measure.
- Supporting continued capitalization of the state's Brownfields Redevelopment
 Fund and Access to Capital Program which provides low cost financing for
 assessment and cleanup of impacted properties. The bottom line is that, in most
 cases, it costs more money to build on a dirty site than it does on a clean one.
 Financial incentives are critical.
- Promoting smart growth with an emphasis on reinvigorating inner city neighborhoods. The redevelopment of urban areas, which historically carried a disproportionately high burden of the state's industrial activity, is critical to smart growth. Redevelopment of brownfields properties is an alternative to urban sprawl. The LSPA opposes legislation that creates a two-tiered regulatory system that imposes additional hurdles for developers interested in investing in, and revitalizing, inner-city communities.

For more information about the LSPA or its legislative agenda, contact: Wendy Rundle, Executive Director, LSPA wenrun@gmail.com or at 617/484-4027.