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April 12, 2011

To: All Members, House Subcommittee on the Constitution
Re: “Private Property Rights Protection Act”

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Property Rights Alliance (PRA), I am writing today to urge you support the “Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2011” co-sponsored by Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA). Eminent domain abuse continues to be a serious concern for private property owners across the United States and warrants your help once again.

As a result of the Supreme Court’s 2005 ruling in *Kelo v. City of New London*, the government’s power of eminent domain has become almost limitless, providing victimized citizens with few means to protect their property. This legislation will suspend Federal economic development funds for a period of two fiscal years to any state that takes property through eminent domain for a private purpose. It will also allow private property owners legal recourse to fight private property takings by state and local governments that are used for private purposes.

Several states have independently passed legislation to limit their power to eminent domain, and the Supreme Courts of Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio have barred the practice under their state constitutions. This bill will provide American citizens in every state with the means to protect their private property from exceedingly unsubstantiated claims of eminent domain.

Your strong leadership and efforts to correct the abusive use of eminent domain is needed at a time when government continues to leave the door wide open to these egregious takings. Although many states have already acted, Congress must play a pivotal role in reforming the use and abuse of eminent domain. On behalf of the property rights community, we thank you for your leadership on this issue and look forward to your continued efforts to protect private property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelsey Zahourek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kelsey Zahourek
Executive Director