

# COALITION AGAINST EMINENT DOMAIN ABUSE

October 29, 2004

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

The U.S. Supreme Court will decide this term whether state and local governments can use eminent domain to take non-blighted homes in the name of economic development. The issue before the Court deals only with state and local authority; there is no reason the federal government needs to take a position in this case. We urge the Administration NOT to file a brief in *Kelo v. New London*.

The outcome of this case will affect the property rights of tens of thousands of homeowners and small businesses nationwide because they are the frequent targets of eminent domain. Given the Bush Administration's recent Ownership Society campaign and support of middle-income housing expansion, it is imperative that the Administration not undermine private property rights in the *Kelo* case. Property rights and home ownership, as recognized in the Ownership Society principles, are cornerstones of America's communities and economy. Filing a brief against property owners in this case would be both disastrous to property rights and a serious affront to the promise of "expanding property ownership" the Administration champions.

The Constitution protects private property and states that property may only be taken for public use. Eminent domain for economic development does not constitute a public use. We urge the Administration affirm its support of property rights and refrain from filing a brief in *Kelo*.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist, President, Americans for Tax Reform  
Paul Weyrich, National Chairman, Coalitions for America  
David Keene, Chairman, American Conservative Union  
Fred L. Smith Jr., President, Competitive Enterprise Institute  
Pat Callahan, Executive Director, American Association of Small Property Owners  
Stephen Lilienthal, Free Congress Foundation  
Robert D. Thompson, Director, Sixty Votes Coalition (PAC)  
Matt Kibbe, President, FreedomWorks  
George Landrith, President, Frontiers of Freedom  
Connie Mackey, VP of Government Affairs, Family Research Council  
John Berthoud, President, National Taxpayers Union  
Alvin Williams, President/CEO, Black America's PAC  
Tony Palazzolo, Individual  
Nancy Mitchell Pfothenauer, President, Americans for Prosperity

Roger Pilon, Constitutional Scholar  
Robert Poole, Jr., Founder, Reason Foundation  
David Nott, President, Reason Foundation  
Steve Buckstein, Founding President, Cascade Policy Institute  
William Westmiller, Chairman, Republican Liberty Caucus  
Kay Daly, President, Coalition for a Fair Judiciary  
Tom DeWeese, President, American Policy Center  
Manny Klausner, General Counsel, Individual Rights Foundation  
Leri M. Thomas, Ph.D., Virginians for Property Rights  
Chuck Muth, President, Citizen Outreach  
Dr. John Eastman, Director, Claremont Institute Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence  
Andrew Grainger, President, New England Legal Foundation  
Carol LaGrasse, President, Property Rights Foundation of America  
Joseph Grieboski, President, Institute on Religion and Public Policy  
Jeffrey Mazzella, Executive Director, Center for Individual Freedom  
Tom Schatz, President, Citizens Against Government Waste  
Amy Ridenour, President, The National Center for Public Policy Research  
John Taylor, President, Virginia Institute for Public Policy  
Michael Ostrolenk, Association of American Physicians and Surgeons  
Maryland Taxpayers Association  
Jane Orient, MD, Exec. Director, Assoc. of American Physicians and Surgeons  
Henry Lamb, Property Rights Congress of America  
Kevin L. Kearns, President, U.S. Business and Industry Council  
Emmett McLoughlin, President/CEO, Emmett McLoughlin Realty, Inc.  
Sovereignty International, Inc.  
Mike Stollenwerk, Fairfax County Privacy Council  
Environmental Conservation Organization  
Siobhan Reynolds, President, Pain Relief Network  
Karen Effrem MD, EdWatch  
Al Aitken, Chairman, VOTORS