

TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO LIMIT EMINENT DOMAIN!

Do you remember the day this past summer when you first heard the US Supreme Court decision that sanctioned the use of eminent domain to take one person's home or business to give it to another for private profit? School teacher Suzette Kelo had turned a rundown Victorian into her dream home only to have the City Of New London, Connecticut try to seize it by eminent domain for the benefit of a large private corporation. Most people think that eminent domain can only be used for a legitimate public use like a school or fire station. The Kelo decision confirmed a practice of abuse that has been happening all over California and the nation. Many homes, businesses, and places of worship have been seized and many more are threatened. If owners resist, their property can be forcibly taken by the government and given to another private owner just because the new use might generate more revenue. Thanks to the Kelo decision, now the whole country knows this dirty secret.

But who would have ever thought that this terrible ruling by the Supreme Court would be such an extraordinary opportunity? People everywhere are overwhelmingly condemning the Kelo decision and numerous states have already passed laws to limit eminent domain powers. Our California legislature has been unable to stand up to the special interests that benefit from eminent domain property seizures. So now it's up to us. Our People's Initiative is doing just what the initiative process was meant to do – give the people a voice when government fails us. The time is right for a **non-partisan** initiative by the people, for the people, that places reasonable limits on the power of eminent domain.

Our grassroots alliance of neighborhood people representing all Californians has filed the *People's Initiative to Limit Eminent Domain*. It is simply "no eminent domain for private gain." Nothing added by Sacramento lobbyists or power-brokers to serve other agendas. How are we different from the other California Initiatives on eminent domain? We are not Sacramento insiders; we are people just like Suzette Kelo who face the threat of eminent domain in our neighborhoods across California. We have created a nonpartisan, single-issue initiative that simply fixes the kind of abuse that has so outraged the nation in the Kelo decision. With your help, we will gather nearly a million signatures to put the *People's Initiative to Limit Eminent Domain* on the November 2006 ballot!

But now we face our first major hurdle. We need funds desperately in a very short time. It will cost many thousands of dollars just to print petitions and there will be many additional expenses. **Please be as generous as possible.** By the end of January we will have our Title and Summary from the Attorney General and signature gathering can begin. We have a dream that all Californians will soon sleep well at night knowing their homes, businesses and places of worship are safe from unjust seizures. Join us and make this dream a reality.

There is no limit as to what you can give. We are grateful for your contribution in any amount. Send your checks made payable to "Limit Eminent Domain" along with the enclosed Contribution form**:

Limit Eminent Domain - The People's Initiative,
P.O. Box 90220
San Jose, CA 95109-3220.

Thank you for your support,

Loraine Wallace Rowe, Chair, Limit Eminent Domain Coordinating Committee
Diana Davenport Padilla, Limit Eminent Domain Treasurer
Doug McNea, Initiative Proponent
Annette Hipona, Initiative Proponent

**Contributions cannot be accepted without the completed form.