

R013-0607

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ABOLISHMENT OF EMINENT**
20 **DOMAIN**

30 **WHEREAS:** The government is stealing property from hard-working American families,
40 some of whom who have lived in their homes for their entire lives, and turning
50 it over to other private citizens in hopes of increasing tax revenue; and,

60 **WHEREAS:** The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution states that “nor should
70 private property be taken for public use, without just compensation”, which does
80 not express power but limits it and clearly states “public use” not private; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** In many cases compensation given is not enough for citizens to relocate and
100 purchase comparable housing; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** Eminent domain disproportionately affects the poor, minorities, the elderly, and
120 religious institutions and benefits wealthy politically connected people and
130 businesses; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** The Maryland Legislature liberally uses its’ eminent domain power for
150 redevelopment projects; and,

160 **WHEREAS:** Baltimore City has used eminent domain to remove many small businesses for
 private development; and,

170 **WHEREAS:** In 2002, Baltimore City approved a project to build new businesses and private
180 homes that potentially displaces over 800 people; and,

190 **WHEREAS:** 70% of Baltimore County voters supported a referendum to stop an eminent
200 domain redevelopment project; and,

210 **WHEREAS:** Private property should be protected and no one, including the government,
220 should be allowed to take it without the owners consent.

230 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland
240 General Assembly to pass legislation that would stop eminent domain takings in
250 Maryland.

260 **MANDATES:** Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
270 Senate President Thomas V. “Mike” Miller
280 Senate Minority Leader J. Lowell Stoltzfus
290 House Speaker Michael E. Busch
300 House Minority Leader George C. Edwards

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