

R032-0607

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING EMINENT DOMAIN ABUSE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

270 **MANDATES:** Governor Martin O'Malley
280 Senate President Thomas V. “Mike” Miller
290 Senate Minority Leader David R. Brinkley
300 House Speaker Michael E. Busch
310 House Minority Leader Anthony O'Donnell

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