R032-0607

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING EMINENT DOMAIN ABUSE

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

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

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

WHEREAS: Eminent domain disproportionately affects the poor, minorities, the elderly, and religious institutions and benefits wealthy politically connected persons and businesses; and,

WHEREAS: The Maryland Legislature liberally uses it's eminent domain power for redevelopment projects; and,

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation that would stop eminent domain abuse in Maryland for relocating land to private entities.

MANDATES: Governor Martin O'Malley
Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller
Senate Minority Leader David R. Brinkley
House Speaker Michael E. Busch
House Minority Leader Anthony O'Donnell

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