



Please help strengthen the protection for private property rights

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, in her dissenting vote on the Kelo v. New London case, urged all Americans to work with their State Legislators to review their eminent domain laws and re-examine how private property rights are treated.

Wyoming statutes need to be strengthened to provide private property owners:

Meaningful participation when private property is taken.

- Notice at the time any monies are spent by the taker to begin planning a new use of the private land.
- The terms and conditions available to private property owners should be the same as available in the free market (given the absence of a willing seller) and identical to those available to federal and state agencies.

Fair and just compensation when another entity takes our land.

- Private property owners should be able to charge an access fee for preliminary access to private lands prior to condemnation.
- Property owners should be entitled to an annual lease payment for the ongoing use of their land by a private corporation, in addition to the initial damage payment based on comparable sales.
- Home- and business-owners should be guaranteed the full cost of replacement, rather than merely the appraisal value of the property.

Checks and balances before our property can be taken.

- Private property should not be the priority over public property for the placement of projects that provide a public benefit.
- Taking one's private property should be the last resort, and never to minimize corporate costs or ease the convenience of the taker.
- The burden for proving the need and just compensation should be highest on the taker, given they are taking property from another entity for their own use.