



CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE TO PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

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Property Seized in Landmark Kelo Case Abandoned
Case Illustrates the Failure of Eminent Domain Laws

Sacramento – The California Alliance to Protect Private Property Rights (the Alliance) has long fought against the injustice of eminent domain. Private property advocates across the country hope that a lesson will be learned as Pfizer, Inc. reports it will be closing its research and development headquarters in New London, Connecticut, the site made famous by the U.S. Supreme Courts Kelo vs. City of New London decision.

Today, the homes of Suzette Kelo and her neighbors, which were seized for the private gain of this powerful corporation, are gone and the property sits vacant.

“This is truly an example of the failure of our nation’s eminent domain laws,” said Marko Mlikotin, president of the Alliance. “Government agencies always claim to be serving the public’s interest even as they seize homes and small businesses from unwilling sellers and this is wrong. The use of eminent domain usually involves a government agency’s power to pick the winners and losers and its victims are many, including here in California”

In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court sided with the City of New London, sanctioning government’s ability to profit by using eminent domain to seize private property from unwilling sellers to benefit private developers. The development that was promised to grow around the Pfizer headquarters is now just another victim of the economy, replaced instead with barren land and weeds.

In response to the Kelo decision, 43 states have reformed their laws to better protect property owners. Unfortunately, California lacks meaningful reforms to protect property owners and failed redevelopment projects and eminent domain abuses are all too common throughout California. “Our state legislature has failed to protect the citizens from this type of abuse.” said Mlikotin.

The Alliance is a statewide organization of family farmers, taxpayers and community leaders committed to protecting private property rights. The Alliance was a sponsor

and leading supporter of Proposition 98, an eminent domain ballot measure that appeared on the June 2008 ballot.

To learn more about the Alliance and read the latest in property rights news, visit www.calpropertyrights.com.

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