

## Resolution to Prevent the Taking of Private Land to Benefit Other Private Interests

**WHEREAS** the 2005 Supreme Court's decision in *Kelo v. City of New London*, affirmed New London's authority to take nonblighted private property by eminent domain, and then sell the property to a private developer;

**WHEREAS** the State Supreme Courts of Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio have recently ruled to disallow such takings under their state constitutions; and

**WHEREAS** President George W. Bush issued an executive order on 6/23/2006 stating that the Federal Government must limit its taking private property "for the purpose of advancing the economic interest of private parties";

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that while private land is a valuable asset and resource of our society, the {Washington State} government should be severely restricted and generally prevented from using eminent domain to take private land to give to other private interests. Stronger consideration must be given to property owners than the owners of mineral, oil, and gas rights; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party request our State Legislators to initiate a legal study of eminent domain laws of this state to determine whether a "Kelo v. City of New London" could happen here. If it could happen, State legislators should amend Washington State eminent domain laws to prevent such occurrences where they are accomplished to benefit private parties.

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Submitted by the Jefferson County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/2/2008)

The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14, 2008 meeting in Spokane.