



Conservatives  
for  
Property Rights

December 7, 2023

Representative Nick Langworthy  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Langworthy:

Conservatives for Property Rights and the undersigned coalition members strongly support the Defense of Property Rights Act. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution is meant to protect citizens from being deprived of “life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.” This fundamental civil right was encroached by *Kelo v. New London* (2005), when the Supreme Court reinterpreted “public use” to mean “public purpose,” including taking property from one private property owner on behalf of another private entity.

In addition, government’s regulatory actions often result in regulatory and other takings. These equally deprive property owners of the use or disposal of their property. Further, the means of securing just compensation for loss the government has imposed on property owners are byzantine and pose great difficulty for citizens to obtain justice.

Today, property owners across America are susceptible to being victimized by the government, environmental activists, development firms, and others. The various types of property takings also put rural areas at risk. In the past, farmers have ceded their land for railways, highways, and other transportation projects. Current law leaves them at the mercy of governmental takings without just compensation.

The Defense of Property Rights Act would enable property owners to hold the federal government accountable for any type of takings. It would establish a more efficient, uniform process for citizens to secure the rights the Fifth Amendment guarantees.

The rights to life, liberty, and property have been cornerstones of our Republic since its founding. In 1792, James Madison, the Father of the Constitution and author of the Bill

of Rights, explained that private property has a sacred place in American society: "Government is instituted to protect property of every sort; as well that which lies in the various rights of individuals, as that which the term particularly expresses."

The Defense of Property Rights Act restores the promise of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. It makes Madison's words effective. Thus, Conservatives for Property Rights is pleased to support the Defense of Property Rights Act, and we look forward to working with you to see it enacted.

Sincerely,

James Edwards  
Executive Director  
Conservatives for Property Rights

Kevin L. Kearns  
President  
U.S. Business & Industry Council

Saulius "Saul" Anuzis  
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Victory Coalition Strategies  
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Colin Hanna  
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Let Freedom Ring

Bob Carlstrom  
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Less Government

Richard Manning  
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Americans for Limited Government  
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Jeffrey Mazzella  
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Frontiers of Freedom

Anthony Zagotta  
President  
Center for American Principles

cc: Rep. Harriet Hageman