

Resolution Submitted by: Jane Kleeb, Hastings, Nebraska (Seconders listed below) 6-12-16

Passed by SCC – November 14, 2017

We oppose the use of eminent domain for private gain.

Resolution on Protecting Private Property

Whereas the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment “nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation” is now a clause Big Corporations use to take away property rights for private gain;

Whereas without property rights, individual rights are diminished. Without property rights, families have a constant uncertainty of their land. Without property rights, family farmers and ranchers’ livelihoods are directly at-risk. Without property rights, our Native allies Sovereignty rights get diminished at a time when they need to be strengthened; and

Whereas the Supreme Court’s Kelo vs. New London decision, allowing local governments to seize a person’s home or land, not for vital public use, but for private gain is against the very core of America. As Sen. Bernie Sanders said regarding Kelo, “The result of this decision will be that working families and poor people will see their property turned over to corporate interests and wealthy developers;” now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Nebraska Democratic Party:

1. urges Congress and State legislatures to prohibit actions by federal and state government agencies that directly take or authorize the taking of private property for private gain;
2. urges State legislatures to moot the impact of the Kelo decision in their States by appropriate legislation or constitutional amendments; and
3. urges all federal agencies to create a consistent policy on eminent domain and on protecting Tribal Sovereignty rights. As Sec. Hillary Clinton said, “all agencies with project permitting and eminent domain authority to pursue a comprehensive strategy for modernizing America’s energy that creates jobs, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, improves safety and powers a 21st century economy. This whole-of-government strategy will streamline an inefficient and patchwork permitting process while respecting landowners’ property rights and improving transparency and public participation.”

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