



CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE TO PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

California Property Rights Organization Announces Leadership
farmers and taxpayers form property rights organization

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Sacramento – The newly established California Alliance to Protect Private Property Rights (CAPPPr) announced that former State Senator and Minority Leader Jim Nielsen of Woodland was elected to serve as chairman of the board.

Serving as the organization's "honorary" co-chairmen are Senator Tom McClintock of Ventura County and Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa of Butte County.

"The Alliance is honored to have Senator McClintock and Assemblyman LaMalfa as part of a citizen led campaign to protect private property from the abuses of eminent domain," said Senator Jim Nielsen. "While today so many elected leaders are quick to join the U.S. Supreme Court in eroding private property rights, these state legislators have led legislative efforts to protect homeowners, small business and family farmers from government led efforts to seize private property from unwilling sellers."

"Americans are very concerned with the U.S. Supreme Court's recent Kelo vs. City of New London decision granting local government greater authority and ease by which they can seize homes, small business and family farms from unwilling sellers -- and rightly so," said Nielsen. "To witness this impressive abuse of power, Californians do not need to look beyond our State's borders to see how government is using its police powers to seize private property from unwilling sellers. The threat to property in California is real and these are extraordinary times for those fighting to protect private property rights."

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's Kelo vs. City of New London decision, Senator McClintock and Assemblyman LaMalfa introduced a state constitutional

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amendment to strengthen California's eminent domain laws. All eminent domain reform bills stalled in this legislative session. One bill that threatens private property rights (AB 1747) is before Governor Schwarzenegger. This bill is related to Yolo County's effort to seize the 17,300 Conaway Ranch from its unwilling sellers. Should Yolo County prevail in its taking, it would mark the first time in California history that local government has used gambling profits to seize private property.

"Under the Kelo v. City of New London, Connecticut decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, government has become the thug. Americans' property rights have been eroded for many years, but Kelo represented the final collapse," said Senator Tom McClintock. "It is now entirely permissible for government to seize the home of one person for pennies on the dollar to give it to another – not for some vital over-arching public necessity, but simply because the new owner can pay more taxes than the old."

"As a farmer, I hold the value of property ownership as a paramount right," said Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa. "If the test used in the Kelo case were applied to agricultural land across California and the nation, in essence taking property with a low tax base from one private owner to hand it over to another private owner, every farm from coast to coast would be at risk."

The Alliance also named Marko Mlikotin to serve as its president. Mlikotin is president of River City Communications and was chief of staff for former Congressman Doug Ose of Sacramento, who served on the House Agriculture and Government Reform Committees.

Following the Kelo decision, CAPPPR was founded by local farmers, taxpayer advocates and community leaders. They have been the leading opposition to Yolo County's controversial decision to seize the Conaway Ranch from its unwilling sellers. Through this experience they realized that there were no statewide private property rights organizations in California protecting property owners from the abuses of eminent domain. As a result, Yolo community leaders founded a statewide private property rights organization, the California Alliance to Protect Private Property Alliance (CAPPPR).

The Alliance is dedicated to exposing the abuses of eminent domain within the State of California and to work with State and Federal legislative representatives to restore private property protections as intended by our Nation's founding fathers. For more information, visit www.calpropertyrights.com.

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