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that is morally wrong.*

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State Senator Vows to Protect Missourians' Property Rights
Senators to Examine Eminent Domain Laws

St. Charles, Missouri – In light of a recent United States Supreme Court ruling that local governments may seize private property including homes and businesses for private economic development, state Sen. Chuck Gross, R-St. Charles, along with Senate Republican leadership vowed today to examine the state's current eminent domain laws and sponsor legislation to address any nuances that may be exaggerated by the five to four ruling that harms Missouri property owners.

"No longer is an individual property owner constitutionally guaranteed the presumption of true ownership and all that it implies due to the Supreme Court's decision," Gross said. "It's unfathomable now that all a company that wants a person's house has to do is get a city council, state or other public entity to agree with them."

Gross says the court decision supports some broad and overreaching economic development programs that are already in place, further deteriorating the 'public purpose' tenets found in the constitution.

"The only saving grace appears to be the ability of states to protect property owners by enacting tougher economic development guidelines," Gross said. "My efforts in the next legislative session will be on tightening the ability of private enterprise to use state and local governments for the taking of private property. We must restrict the power of eminent domain to only those instances of true public need in order to assure Missourians the 'enjoyment of the gains of their own industry,' as promised by our state constitution."

Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, commends Gross' quick action and stands with the senator in his call for a review of current property rights laws.

"I was shocked and disappointed by the recent decision issued by the Supreme Court of the United States," Gibbons said. "We must examine our law for any deficiencies and find solutions to protect the property owners of Missouri."

Lawmakers may pre-file legislation beginning July 1 and leading up to the start of second regular session of the 93rd General Assembly. Pre-filed legislation is numbered and made available to the public beginning Dec. 1.

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