



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Jason Crowell Supports Eminent Domain Reform

Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, applauds and supports Gov. Matt Blunt for signing into law today House Bill 1944. The legislation helps stop the abuses created by the U.S. Supreme Court's 2005 ruling in *Kelo v. New London*, which declared that governments can seize private property for economic purposes, such as increasing taxes.

"With the signing into law of House Bill 1944, Missouri is the first state in the country to legislatively ensure that the rights of property owners are not bulldozed by private developers seeking only economic gain," Crowell said. "Now Missouri families and business owners will not have to watch their private property be replaced by shopping centers or other developments that do not truly have a public use."

The measure, which becomes effective Aug. 28, prohibits eminent domain from being used in projects solely for economic development purposes. The measure further delineates that when eminent domain *is* used for truly public purposes, such as building a new road or school, property owners will be paid based on factors including heritage value, fair market value, willingness of the owner to sell the property and the costs of relocation and replacement to ensure that full compensation is paid. The law also shields farmland from being labeled as "blighted."

"I am proud that the Show-Me State has declared that public need comes before private greed, and we have tough property-rights protection in Missouri," Crowell said.

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