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Senator Gayle Slossberg
(via email: slossberg@senatedems.ct.gov)

Representative James Spallone
(via email: jamespallone@cga.ct.gov)

Re: Office of Ombudsman for Property Rights

Dear Senator Slossberg and Representative Spallone:

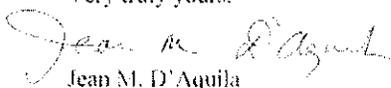
I write to you as a lawyer in private practice in Connecticut whose practice is concentrated in municipal law. I write in opposition to the current effort to eliminate the Office of Ombudsman for Property Rights.

The process of Eminent Domain is complicated and controversial. The State Department of Transportation exercises eminent domain power frequently in connection with road projects. Connecticut municipalities exercise the power of eminent domain less frequently but usually in connection with very important public works projects. The property owners who face the prospect of eminent domain are usually non-conversant with the process and their rights.

When the Office of the Ombudsman for Property Rights was established in 2006, I felt it was a sound move for the State of Connecticut. In this post-Kelo world, it is important to have a mechanism for mediation within the eminent domain process. I have attended seminars and have read articles prepared by the Ombudsman in which he explained the process and the role of his office. I have had opportunity to discuss with him the services his office can provide and believe the role of the Ombudsman is essential to the fair administration of eminent domain proceedings in Connecticut.

I support the continued existence of the Office of Ombudsman for Property Rights and hope you will assist in terminating efforts to eliminate this office.

Very truly yours,



Jean M. D'Aquila

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