

I support HB 5123: An Act Prohibiting The Use Of Eminent Domain For Commercial Purposes. The original purpose of Eminent Domain has been convoluted over the years. Its purpose is to allow government to take private real property, with compensation, for public use. Black's Law Dictionary defines Eminent Domain as "the right of the people or government to take private property for public use." Public use means schools, police stations, fire stations, town halls, utilities roads, etc. In recent years it's been (wrongly, in my opinion) used to take private property that ultimately ends as commercial property, with no public use whatsoever, and justified as economic development, which benefits the community at large. Yet the property isn't being used for public use. This happened in Suffield when the Town developed an industrial park near the corner of Route 75 and Spencer Street. I find it very difficult to understand how Eminent Domain can be used to take property, that won't ultimately be used by the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public testimony on this bill.

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