

EMINENT DOMAIN

WHEREAS, Eminent domain is the power of government to take private property for public use with payment of fair compensation to the owner; and

WHEREAS, Eminent domain is critical in the development, maintenance and revitalization of infrastructure in municipalities, counties, and the state of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Eminent domain has been used to condemn property for the benefit of private developers; therefore

RESOLVED, That the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC, an organization of more than 5,600 concerned women, in Convention assembled May 2023

- Strongly urges the adoption of legislation which prohibit the use of eminent domain within a redevelopment context from condemning a property that is legally occupied as residential property and maintained in accordance with applicable housing codes and standards to accomplish economic development objectives such as construction of non-public office buildings, mega stores and shopping centers; and
- Strongly urges that legislation be adopted which places a 24-month moratorium on certain uses of eminent domain, namely, the taking of private property when the primary purpose of the taking is economic development that would result in ownership being vested in another private person; and
- Establish an Eminent Domain Study Commission which will study the use and procedure of eminent domain in the State of New Jersey and recommend legislation to discourage the abuse of eminent domain; and
- Strongly urges that a state constitutional amendment be proposed to limit the eminent domain power of state and local government to the acquisition of private property only for purposes considered to be "essential public purposes" (establishment of utility and transportation corridors, educational facilities, airports, correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities, landfills, sewage treatment facilities, storm management facilities, in-patient health facilities, and recreational facilities).

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Phil Murphy, Governor of New Jersey; Nicholas P. Scutari, President of the Senate; Teresa Ruiz, Senate Majority Leader, Steve Oroho, Senate Minority Leader; Craig J. Coughlin, Speaker of the General Assembly; Louis Greenwald, Assembly Majority Leader; John DiMaio, Assembly Minority Leader; Troy Singleton, Senate Community of Urban Committee Chairman; Shawn M. LaTourette, Department of Environmental Commissioner; Sheila Y. Oliver, Lieutenant Governor, Department of Community Affairs Commissioner; GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Chairman and GFWC Resolutions Chairman

Submitted by:

NJSFWC Legislation/Resolutions Committee

Rationale: To consolidate into a more effective resolution. (*Includes Eminent Domain – Condemnation 2006, 2008; Eminent Domain – Constitutional Amendment 2006, 2008; and Eminent Domain – Moratorium 2006, 2008*)