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February 9, 2015

Senator Julia Lynn
Senate Standing Committee on Commerce
8:30 a.m., Room 548-S
Statehouse
Topeka, Kansas

Subject: My OPPOSITION to Senate Bill No. 84 scheduled for public hearing on Feb. 9, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

Dear Senator Lynn and members of the Committee on Commerce,

I will be unable to attend your hearing on Senate Bill No. 84 at 8:30 a.m. on February 9, 2015 and trust this written testimony in OPPOSITION to passage of the Bill will be included with other committee testimony.

In 2005 the United States Supreme Court decided a case, *Kelo v. City of New London*, involving the use of eminent domain to transfer land from one private owner to another to further economic development. The *Kelo* decision essentially left states like Kansas with little private property protection from eminent domain abuse. In 2006 the Kansas Legislature responded by passing a Statute to correct this inequity in Kansas that defined the process cities must follow to "take" private property. There was widespread enthusiastic public support for this private property protection from citizens from all over Kansas.

Since that time local governmental officials and their politically connected redevelopment allies, who have designs on property owned by others, have worked tirelessly to pass legislation designed to weaken the Kansas eminent domain protection statutes. They use subjective terms like "blight" and "unoccupied" property definitions as their excuse to take private property for "community development or economic development purposes". Passage of Senate Bill No.84 would allow cities and community redevelopment organizations to take privately owned properties in a manner that bypasses current Kansas Statutory eminent domain protection. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN!

Sincerely,

John Todd

Cc: Senator Michael O'Donnell