

4. PROPERTY RIGHTS:

House panel approves bill limiting federal eminent domain power

Lawrence Hurley, E&E reporter

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The House Judiciary Committee today approved a bill aimed at putting a limit on the government's use of eminent domain powers to seize private property.

The legislation won passage on a 23-5 vote.

The bill, [H.R. 1433](#), is an attempt to limit the impact of the Supreme Court's 2005 ruling in *Kelo v. City of New London*.

The court ruled that government entities could use eminent domain powers for economic development projects primarily intended to increase tax revenues.

The legislation would place limits on the use of eminent domain by any recipient of federal funding and prevent the federal government from using eminent domain for economic development purposes.

In approving the bill, the panel voted in favor of three amendments introduced by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) that are designed mainly to minimize the impact of eminent domain on minorities.

Although the legislation is moving in the House, no companion measure has yet been introduced in the Senate.

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