

# Property Rights *Action* Caucus

May 2, 2008

U.S. Congressman Paul C. Broun, M.D., Chairman



## 2 US cites China, Russia for failing to protect intellectual property (AFP-4/25/08)



The United States on Friday named China and Russia as among the worst protectors of intellectual property rights, flooding global trade with counterfeit items such as DVDs, designer bags, medicines and software.

In an annual report on intellectual property rights protection, the US Trade Representative's office singled out China and Russia for allegedly failing to respect US patents and copyrights.

The Special 301 Report, named after the section of US law on which it is based, spotlights "one of the central challenges facing the global economy," USTR Susan Schwab said.

China and Russia are among the nine countries on this year's priority watch list that includes Argentina, Chile, India, Israel, Pakistan, Thailand and Venezuela.

Those countries will be the subject of "particularly intense" bilateral dialogue during the coming year, the USTR said.

[afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hK7FRJ2cUuy2z2uz7YRer0Y3nEHQ](http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hK7FRJ2cUuy2z2uz7YRer0Y3nEHQ)

## 3 Battle over eminent domain is another civil rights issue

David T. Beito and Ilya Somin (Kansas City Star - 4/27/08)

Few policies have done more to destroy community and opportunity for minorities than eminent domain. Some 3 to 4 million Americans, most of them ethnic minorities, have been forcibly displaced from their homes as a result of urban renewal takings since World War II.

Eminent domain has always had an outsized impact on the constitutional rights of minorities, but most of the public didn't notice until the U.S. Supreme Court's 2005 ruling in *Kelo v. City of New London*. In *Kelo*, the Court endorsed the power of a local government to forcibly transfer private property to commercial interests for the purpose of "economic development."

The Fifth Amendment requires that such seizures be for a "public use," but that requirement can be satisfied, the Court ruled, by virtually any claim of some sort of public benefit. Many charge that *Kelo* gives governments a blank check to redistribute land from the poor and middle class to the wealthy.

[www.kansascity.com/273/v-print/story/594562.html](http://www.kansascity.com/273/v-print/story/594562.html)

# 1 JOIN THE PROPERTY RIGHTS ACTION CAUCUS!!!

I invite you all to join the new Property Rights Action Caucus for weekly information & for defending these rights. Our liberties are only as secure as our property rights.

We will examine: eminent domain, federal government property ownership, downloading of multimedia, the Endangered Species Act, patent reform, pharmaceutical issues, compulsory licensing, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) & all issues of land and intellectual property.

Please contact Stephen Kraly at 202-225-4101 or [stephen.kraly@mail.house.gov](mailto:stephen.kraly@mail.house.gov) for membership and info.

## 4 Event Notice:

### Second-Thursdays Property Rights Hill Working Group

Thursday, 5/8  
122 Cannon House Office Building  
11:00-12:00 noon

\*\*\*If you have an agenda item for the working group, please contact Kelsey Zahourek at 202-290-7646 or [kzahourek@propertyrightsalliance.org](mailto:kzahourek@propertyrightsalliance.org)

Please note, you should have already received an invitation from the Second Thursdays Property Rights Hill Working Group regarding this event.

## 5 Lodi assures critics its eminent domain ban is here to stay

By Daniel Thigpen (recordnet.com - 5/1/08)

The city's elected



leaders and public officials have made the promise, both in writing and in public forums: Lodi will not take your home or business if it approves a redevelopment project.

By stripping the city of its eminent domain powers, Lodi officials have aimed to garner more public support for redevelopment, the controversial process by which cities keep a larger share of property tax revenue for rehabilitation projects.

Several years ago, residents shot down a similar proposal, partly over fears the government would seize their property. There has been little public opposition to redevelopment this time around.

[recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080501/A\\_NEWS/805010340/-1/A\\_NEWS](http://recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080501/A_NEWS/805010340/-1/A_NEWS)

For more information on the Property Rights Action Caucus, please visit <http://broun.house.gov/prac>. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Caucus please contact Stephen Kraly at 202.225.4101 or [Stephen.Kraly@mail.house.gov](mailto:Stephen.Kraly@mail.house.gov).