

# Property Rights *Action* Caucus

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

February 5, 2008



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## Eminent Reality (WSJ - January 30, 2008)

A new report from the Institute for Justice, written about in the January 30, 2008 edition of the Wall Street Journal, looks at whether the restriction of eminent domain harms economic growth.

The verdict: So far, there has been no discernable hit to economic activity from the restriction of eminent domain, even in those states with the broadest reforms. The Institute for Justice, which spearheaded the original campaign to save Suzette Kelo's home, decided to crunch some numbers.

First, the report assigns each state to one of three categories according to the level of reform implemented after *Kelo*: "strong," "moderate" or "none." Then it compares the data for construction jobs, building permits and property-tax revenue before and after the effective dates of the reforms for each state.

[http://online.wsj.com/article\\_email/SB120165400238627033-1MyQjAxMDI4MDMxMDYzN-TA0Wj.html](http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB120165400238627033-1MyQjAxMDI4MDMxMDYzN-TA0Wj.html)

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## Maryland Smoking Ban Infringes on Property Rights

Effective February 1, 2008, the state of Maryland implemented a statewide smoking ban that includes bars, restaurants and private clubs. Gov. Martin O'Malley originally signed into law this statewide ban on smoking on May 17, 2007.

Businesses can receive a waiver that lasts until 2011 if they can prove the ban is hurting their business. For some, a ban on smoking indoors may initially sound good. However, the ban on smoking indoors infringes on the private property rights of private businesses and institutions.

The state of Maryland has chosen to overlook the often forgotten issue of private property. It would be fine for the state of Maryland to restrict smoking in government buildings but to restrict what people can do on their own private property is going too far.

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## 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.

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## Event Notice:

The Long Road to Drug

Discovery-Luncheon

Thursday,  
February 7, 2008  
11:30AM-  
12:30PM  
2322 Rayburn

Please note the press conference and lunch briefing for the 20th Discoverers and Clinical Trial Exceptional Service Awards.



PhRMA & Research America will be honoring researchers, doctors and patients for the discovery of Coreg®-- a life-saving heart medicine .

In addition, the long process of bringing a drug like Coreg® from the lab bench to patients will be highlighted.

RSVP: 202-835-3434 or to [NStemple@phrma.org](mailto:NStemple@phrma.org)

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## NHL: Beware of Counterfeit All-Star Game Merchandise

(Reuters 1-24-08)



The sale of counterfeit goods is a violation of property rights that hurts jobs and consumer safety.

Since 1993 the NHL and the Coalition to Advance the Protection of Sports logos (CAPS), has helped seize 9+ million counterfeit professional & collegiate items, worth \$329+ million.

Counterfeiting often occurs at large sporting events like the NHL All-Star Game at the Philips Arena in Atlanta on Sunday, January 27. 1,100+ counterfeit NHL items were seized.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS283888+24-Jan-2008+BW20080124>

**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).**