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"The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate. . . ."

Tennessee Constitution, Article I, Sec. 6

July 13, 2005

Bill Baxter, Director and Chairman
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 W. Summit Hill Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37902-1499

Dear Chairman Baxter:

RE: Adopting a TVA policy to guard against Eminent Domain abuse

The leadership and members of Citizens for Home Rule, Inc. are alarmed at the unprecedented erosion of private property rights by the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in *Kelo v. New London*. This ruling equates "public benefit" – a term unknown to the U.S. Constitution or the Constitution of the State of Tennessee – with "public use." Thus the Court has opened the door for nefarious takings of private property by all levels of government. Our disagreement with this ruling and the philosophy behind it could not be more profound.

Our organization strongly believes that Tennessee Valley property owners deserve protection against unwarranted exercise of the power of eminent domain. In your capacity of leadership at TVA, you are in a position to take action that will benefit the citizens of all the states served by your agency.

We call on you to adopt and publically announce a policy applicable to TVA in all of its operations and initiatives, that will restrict any exercise of eminent domain to those instances where it is both necessary and for an actual public use. Further, we ask that your policy entirely forsake the exercise of eminent domain for purpose of economic development, or to transfer or to lease property to others.

To emphasize the urgency of this issue, I ask that you meet with a small delegation from our organization at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John A. Emison'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John A. Emison
President, CHR