

## **HOUSE PASSES EMINENT DOMAIN LEGISLATION**

November 4, 2005 - On November 3rd, House Republicans and Democrats voted overwhelmingly in favor of discouraging states and local governments from using eminent domain for the purposes of economic development. H.R. 4128, the Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2005 brings together multiple pieces of legislation responding to the Supreme Court's controversial *Kelo v. City of New London* decision agreeing that the city could use eminent domain to force homeowners out of their homes to make way for commercial development.

The House voted 376-38 in favor of the bill that prevents any state or local government from collecting federal money for economic development projects for two years should these governments use eminent domain for economic development purposes. The bill defines economic development as private, for-profit projects or those intended to increase tax revenue, the tax base or jobs.

Those Representatives voting against the bill, 36 Democrats and 2 Republicans, argued that the legislation overstepped an area of law best left to state and local governments. Historic Preservation Caucus co-chairs Mike Turner (R-OH) and Brad Miller (D-NC) voted against the bill.