



Greater Harrisburg Association of REALTORS®

POLICY STATEMENT ON PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

Background

The right to private property is one of the most important and inherent rights of citizens. As an organization who represents REALTORS®, GHAR believes that individuals have an intrinsic right to acquire and own property without government infringement. While we support this inalienable right, GHAR also understands that the United States Constitution does permit the government to acquire private property for “public use”. Any government taking of private property, however, must be carefully examined to ensure that the government is not overly encroaching on citizens’ rights and clearly is using the seized property for the public good.

GHAR Position

GHAR adamantly supports an individual’s right to ownership of real property. GHAR will oppose any governmental action to weaken this right. Additionally, GHAR recognizes that governments have responsibilities to the public which may necessitate the need for land for “public use”. However, GHAR will work to ensure that the government’s right detailed under the “Takings Clause” of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution is not abused.

Approved by the Government Affairs Committee (11/15/06)

Approved by the GHAR Executive Committee (12/6/06)

Approved by the GHAR Board of Directors (12/21/06)