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For Immediate Release

Blogger initiates “open source” Constitutional Amendment

Stephen R. Macklin, author of the weblog *Hold the Mayo* (www.nomayo.mu.nu) has begun a process of blog collaboration aimed at the development of Constitution Amendment to protect the property rights of individuals. In a process he labeled as an Open Source Amendment, Macklin posted a draft of an amendment and sought input from other bloggers.

“There are a lot of very smart people on the internet and writing weblogs,” Macklin said. “If that intellectual power can be harnessed we can craft an amendment that will address the damage done to property rights by the Supreme Court in the Kelo decision.”

The Supreme Court ruled recently in a 5 - 4 decision that the City of New London, CT could take several properties under eminent domain making the actions goal of increasing tax revenue a Constitutionally valid public use under the Fifth Amendment.

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; **nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.**

Macklin also said he hopes to generate support across the internet to get the amendment to congress once it is complete. “The process of amending the Constitution is difficult. As it should be. The first hurdle is getting the amendment before Congress. If enough people get behind the effort we should be able to get someone to listen,” he said.

“There are 535 elected members of congress. I hope there is at least one with an interest in preserving the property rights of individuals.

Stephen Macklin is an independent, unpaid, writer of social and political commentary. He can be reached for further comment at blogmail@optonline.net.