HOUSE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/12/2009

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No.**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PRESENTED BY:

**Bradley H. Jones, Jr.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General  
 Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the defense of private property rights through the prevention of abusive eminent domain takings in the Commonwealth.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| Viriato Manuel deMacedo | 1st Plymouth |
| Bradley H. Jones, Jr. | 20th Middlesex |
| George N. Peterson, Jr. | 9th Worcester |
| Elizabeth Poirier | 14th Bristol |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1499 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act relative to the defense of private property rights through the prevention of abusive eminent domain takings in the Commonwealth.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 79 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 1 the following new section:

Section 1A. The taking of real estate or of any interest therein by right of eminent domain under this chapter or chapter 80A shall be effected only when necessary for the possession, occupation, and enjoyment of land by the public at large or by public agencies and shall not be effected for the purpose of commercial enterprise, private economic development, or any private use of the property. Property shall not be taken from one owner and transferred to another on the grounds that the public will benefit from a more profitable use. Whenever an attempt is made to take property for a use alleged to be public, the question whether the contemplated use is truly public shall be a judicial question and determined as such without regard to any legislative assertion thatthe use is public. In the event that property taken pursuant to this chapter of Chapter 80A is not used for the purpose for which it was taken within five (5) years of the taking, the governmental authority that took the property must offer to sell the property to the owner from whom it was acquired, or his or her known or ascertainable heirs or assigns, at the price which was paid for the property or for the fair market value of the property at the time of the sale, whichever is less, and if the offer is not accepted within 180 days from the date it is make, the property may be sold to any other person, but only at public sale after legal notice is given

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.