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Texas Parks and Wildlife Department: Misuse of Eminent Domain Must Stop

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) almost inflicted another black eye on Texas as it aggressively pursued eminent domain of private property in Freestone County but recently, and rightfully abandoned the ill-conceived, un-Texan efforts to forcefully take land from a private citizen.

The developments surrounding the Fairfield Lake property outside of Dallas stirred significant controversy, highlighting a clash between private property rights and state intervention through eminent domain. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has initiated steps to seize a 5,000-acre property using eminent domain, raising concerns about government overreach and encroachment on property rights.

This is being done in defiance of recent legislative intent expressed when the legislature, specifically prohibited the use of eminent domain to acquire land for something as important to the safety of Texans as the Border Wall.





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The TPWD's decision, backed by a unanimous vote, to utilize eminent domain and take possession of the land purchased legally by a Dallas-based developer represents a concerning overextension of government power. Despite the developer acquiring the property in February for \$110.5 million, the TPWD has intervened, disregarding the fair market and private ownership rights.

This situation underscores the critical issue of the fundamental right of Texans to engage in lawful land purchases without undue interference from the government. It's imperative to recognize and protect these property rights, which form the backbone of individual liberties and economic freedom.

The TPWD's interest in the Fairfield Lake property appears to have been sparked only after the private developer secured the land. Prior to this purchase, the state exhibited no significant interest in acquiring the property for its development potential. Instead, their focus was solely on the park portion of the land, neglecting the larger scope of the potential development.

It's crucial to highlight that the Texas developer's intent was to revitalize the property, envisioning a multifaceted development that would contribute not only to the local economy but also to the enrichment of the community with planned amenities like homes, a golf course, and recreational facilities. That is what "free enterprise" and sacred "property rights" are all about."

Texans deserve the right to exercise their property rights without fear of arbitrary government intervention. The TPWD's actions set a dangerous precedent by undermining the principles of fair market transactions and private property ownership.

This issue isn't just about a property dispute; it's about safeguarding the inherent rights of individuals and businesses against unwarranted government intrusion. The state's use of eminent domain in this context demonstrates a disregard for property rights, leaving Texans vulnerable to potential abuses of governmental power.

As a staunch advocate for individual liberties and property rights, I stand firmly with the affected developer, and urge a reevaluation of the TPWD's actions. Texans should not be deprived of their rights, and it is imperative to protect their freedoms from unwarranted government interference.

This dispute over the Fairfield Lake property is emblematic of a larger issue facing Texans – the preservation of property rights in the face of governmental overreach. **It's essential to challenge such actions that undermine the rights of property owners and strive to uphold the principles of a free and fair market.**