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WASHINGTON, DC— Today, Property Rights Alliance Executive Director Kelsey Zahourek condemned the attempts of state legislators in Oregon to replace Measure 37, which requires the Oregon state government to waive regulatory taking laws or compensate property owners when the asset values decreased due to regulation, with Measure 49.

Referred to the November ballot by the state legislature, Measure 49 would reverse the successful property protection citizens of Oregon have enjoyed since Measure 37 was approved by sixty-one percent of the voters in November of 2004, and later upheld by the Supreme Court.

In summary, Measure 49 would:

- Drastically change Oregon law to allow the government to expropriate land without just compensation to the owner.
- Enact new land-use regulations that would reduce a property's value without giving compensation to the owner.
- Give the government authority to change regulatory rules *after* people have already purchased their property.

“This is a serious threat to all property owners in Oregon,” stated Kelsey Zahourek, **“If approved, Measure 49 will eliminate all property protections currently in place and make property owners susceptible to heavy-handed and arbitrary land use regulations. In short, Oregonians hard earned property investments will not be safe if Measure 49 passes.**

On February 21, 2006, the Supreme Court overturned a ruling of the Marion County Circuit Court that upheld Measure 37 unconstitutional. PRA and many other national and state organizations devoted to protecting property rights, lauded that decision as immensely important for correcting many of the taking cases from eminent domain abuses, such as the one in *Kelo vs. New London*.

“In the aftermath of the *Kelo* decision, Measure 37 stood as a model for state legislatures across the country looking to protect private property. Measure 37 not only restored property rights for Oregonians; but peace of mind for residents around the country,” continued Zahourek, **“It is incredibly important to make sure this proposal never becomes reality.”**

PRA Website:

www.propertyrightsalliance.org

Property Rights Alliance (PRA) stands as an advocacy organization dedicated to the protection of physical and intellectual property rights. PRA is a special project of Americans for Tax Reform.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Kelsey Zahourek at (202) 290-7646 or at kzahourek@propertyrightsalliance.org.

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