

Nebraska

Known Condemnations Benefiting Private Parties ²⁸²

Threatened Condemnations   137

Legend  = 100

Lincoln (West O)

In September 2005, the City Council voted to declare 1,361 acres—the west entrance into town along O Street—blighted based on such factors as “improper subdivision and obsolete platting.”²⁸³ The area has at least 40 commercial properties, 10 single-family residences, as well as 20 industrial properties.²⁸⁴ A declaration of blight also gives authority for eminent domain.

Lincoln (North 56th Street)

In October 2005, City Council members declared blighted 1,873 acres between Interstate 80 and North 56th Street.²⁸⁵ Much of that property is farmland and hardly anything that could reasonably be called a danger to the community.²⁸⁶ Fortunately for farmers, in April 2006, the Nebraska legislature passed a bill disallowing condemnation of agricultural land—but the bill gives no protection against the abuse of eminent domain to other property owners in the two massive areas.²⁸⁷ Of the 67 parcels located in the affected area, there are at least five homes and 13 businesses, which unlike the farmland and publicly held property, are still threatened with eminent domain.²⁸⁸

282 These numbers were compiled from news sources. Many cases go unreported, and news reports often do not specify the number of properties against which condemnations were filed or threatened.

283 Deena Winter, “When ‘blight’ can make right,” *Lincoln Journal Star*, September 25, 2005, at B1; “City Council agrees West O is blighted,” *Lincoln Journal Star*, September 27, 2005, at A2.

284 West O Street Redevelopment Plan, <http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/CITY/urban/Reports/WORedev.pdf> (retrieved May 25, 2006).

285 <http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/council/agenda/2005/101705/05r253f.pdf> (retrieved May 25, 2006); <http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/plan/pcagenda/reports/092805/blightstudy.pdf> (retrieved May 25, 2006).

286 Matt Olberding, “Blight tag can be economic ‘shot in the arm,’” *Lincoln Journal Star*, February 26, 2006, at N4.

287 LB 924, sec. 2 (April 13, 2006).

288 North 56th Street and Arbor Road Substandard and Blight Determination Study, <http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/plan/pcagenda/reports/092805/blightstudy.pdf> (retrieved May 25, 2006).