

Mar. 21, 2017

Testimony to House Local Government Committee

SB31 must be passed

It appears that all that oppose SB 31 sum it up as “the property rights of blighted property owners need to be protected”.

WHY? These blighted properties drive down the value of ALL surrounding properties, blighted properties are a cancer for all neighborhoods. How are these neighbors rights protected? What recourse do they have for the loss of property value?

We have a blighted property in my neighborhood that the City has been involved with for over 20 years but have no power to really get anything done. Recently this property finally had to be condemned (roof and foundation falling in along with everything else), and will now be torn down. The neighboring property was sold last year after the owner passed away and the realtor told the family that the property lost at least 10% of its value due to the blighted neighboring property. What recourse do they have? WHO are the real victims of blighted properties? It sure isn't the owners.

Please give the Cities some power to help the neighborhoods. Pass SB31.

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