

Virginia Agribusiness Council
We Represent Virginia Agribusiness with a Unified Voice

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**Virginia Agribusiness Council Applauds Passage of
Eminent Domain Constitutional Amendment**

Richmond- After seven years of efforts, Virginia landowners will be able to rest assured that their private property cannot be taken by eminent domain and given to another private owner. With the passage of Question 1 on yesterday's ballot by an overwhelming margin these protections for the rights of private property owners will be solidified in the state constitution. As a partner in efforts to pass the Constitutional Amendment, the Virginia Agribusiness Council today applauds the passage of Question 1.

The constitutional amendment, known as "Question 1" will curb eminent domain abuse by specifying that eminent domain cannot be used unless it is for a true public use and further ensures just compensation for the landowner. The language in the amendment also clarifies what is a true "public use" and specifies that no more land than is necessary can be taken.

"The Council and our members have voiced support for additional protections for private property rights since the 2005 *Kelo* case allowed property to be taken for less than a true public use," noted Katie Frazier, president of the Virginia Agribusiness Council. "We worked with a bi-partisan group of legislative leaders and industry partners to place this amendment on the ballot, and we are encouraged that the vast majority of Virginia voters agreed to support Question 1."

The Virginia Agribusiness Council represents agricultural and forestry producers, suppliers, marketers, processors and commodity associations in the Commonwealth with a unified voice through its government affairs activities. The Council has a combined membership of over 40,000. For more information on the Virginia Agribusiness Council, visit www.va-agribusiness.org.

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