

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SENATOR TOM WIENS**

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**COLORADO  
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## Wiens' eminent domain bill earns unanimous support

**Denver** -- Legislation placing stringent guidelines around the use of eminent domain by private toll companies received unanimous support today from the Senate Transportation Committee. Senate Bill 78, by **Sen. Tom Wiens, R-Castle Rock**, is meant to protect the private property of Colorado citizens by eliminating condemnation powers for private toll companies.

"Protecting private property rights is a fundamental duty of our government, and today we moved one step closer to upholding that duty," Wiens said. "I was extremely pleased to receive the committee's full support, and I expect the bill to be approved in the full Senate soon."

An almost identical bill was vetoed by Gov. Bill Owens last year. Wiens hopes for a different outcome this time around.

"We cannot put the burden of the state's transportation needs on the backs of Colorado landowners, and we must pass this bill to remove the imminent threat of condemnation," Wiens said. "After this bill becomes law, we can then clarify Colorado statutes and look to CDOT and Governor Bill Owens to develop an equitable and practical plan to fulfill our transportation needs."

The bill, as written would still allow private toll companies to enter into an agreement with a public entity to enable the construction of a private toll road. It now moves to the full Senate for consideration.

*Senator Tom Wiens, R-Castle Rock, is the caucus chairman. He represents Senate District 4, which includes Lake, Douglas, Teller, El Paso and Park Counties. He serves on the Senate Business, Labor & Technology Committee, the Senate Transportation*

*Committee, and the Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Committee. His address during the session is State Capitol, Room 274, 200 East Colfax, Denver CO, 80203.*

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