

**EMINENT DOMAIN LIMITATIONS**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Susan Pulsipher**

Senate Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill excludes certain uses for which the eminent domain right may be exercised.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines "century farm";
- ▶ prohibits a person from exercising the right of eminent domain for the purpose of establishing a public park on certain century farm property; and
- ▶ consolidates uses for which the eminent domain right may not be exercised.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**78B-6-501**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 59

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **78B-6-501** is amended to read:

**78B-6-501. Eminent domain -- Uses for which right may be exercised.**

[Subject] (1) ~~⌘~~ → ~~(a)~~ ← ~~⌘~~ As used in this section, "century farm" means real property that

is:



28           ~~Ĥ~~→ [(~~4~~)] (a) ←Ĥ assessed under Title 59, Chapter 2, Part 5, Farmland Assessment Act; and  
 29           ~~Ĥ~~→ [(~~iii~~)] (b) ←Ĥ owned or held by the same family for a continuous period of 100 years or  
 29a more.

30           ~~Ĥ~~→ [(b) ~~"Century farm" includes real property designated as a century farm and ranch by~~  
 30a ~~the~~  
 31 ~~Utah Farm Bureau Federation.~~] ←Ĥ

32           (2) Except as provided in Subsection (3) and subject to the provisions of this part, the  
 33 right of eminent domain may be exercised on behalf of the following public uses:

34           [(~~1~~)] (a) all public uses authorized by the federal government;

35           [(~~2~~)] (b) public buildings and grounds for the use of the state, and all other public uses  
 36 authorized by the Legislature;

37           [(~~3~~)-(a)] (c) (i) public buildings and grounds for the use of any county, city, town, or  
 38 board of education;

39           [(~~b~~)] (ii) reservoirs, canals, aqueducts, flumes, ditches, or pipes for conducting water or  
 40 sewage, including to or from a development, for the use of the inhabitants of any county, city,  
 41 or town, or for the draining of any county, city, or town;

42           [(~~c~~)] (iii) the raising of the banks of streams, removing obstructions from streams, and  
 43 widening, deepening, or straightening their channels;

44           [(~~d~~)] (iv) bicycle paths and sidewalks adjacent to paved roads;

45           [(~~e~~)] (v) roads, byroads, streets, and alleys for public vehicular use, including for access  
 46 to a development[, ~~excluding trails, paths, or other ways for walking, hiking, bicycling,~~  
 47 ~~equestrian use, or other recreational uses, or whose primary purpose is as a foot path,~~  
 48 ~~equestrian trail, bicycle path, or walkway]; and~~

49           [(~~f~~)] (vi) all other public uses for the benefit of any county, city, or town, or its  
 50 inhabitants;

51           [(~~4~~)] (d) wharves, docks, piers, chutes, booms, ferries, bridges, toll roads, byroads,  
 52 plank and turnpike roads, roads for transportation by traction engines or road locomotives,  
 53 roads for logging or lumbering purposes, and railroads and street railways for public  
 54 transportation;

55           [(~~5~~)] (e) reservoirs, dams, watergates, canals, ditches, flumes, tunnels, aqueducts and  
 56 pipes for the supplying of persons, mines, mills, smelters or other works for the reduction of  
 57 ores, with water for domestic or other uses, or for irrigation purposes, or for the draining and  
 58 reclaiming of lands, or for solar evaporation ponds and other facilities for the recovery of

59 minerals in solution;

60 ~~[(6)(a)]~~ (f) (i) roads, railroads, tramways, tunnels, ditches, flumes, pipes, and dumping  
61 places to access or facilitate the milling, smelting, or other reduction of ores, or the working of  
62 mines, quarries, coal mines, or mineral deposits including oil, gas, and minerals in solution;

63 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) outlets, natural or otherwise, for the deposit or conduct of tailings, refuse or  
64 water from mills, smelters or other works for the reduction of ores, or from mines, quarries,  
65 coal mines or mineral deposits including minerals in solution;

66 ~~[(c)]~~ (iii) mill dams;

67 ~~[(d)]~~ (iv) gas, oil or coal pipelines, tanks or reservoirs, including any subsurface  
68 stratum or formation in any land for the underground storage of natural gas, and in connection  
69 with that, any other interests in property which may be required to adequately examine,  
70 prepare, maintain, and operate underground natural gas storage facilities;

71 ~~[(e)]~~ (v) solar evaporation ponds and other facilities for the recovery of minerals in  
72 solution; and

73 ~~[(f)]~~ (vi) any occupancy in common by the owners or possessors of different mines,  
74 quarries, coal mines, mineral deposits, mills, smelters, or other places for the reduction of ores,  
75 or any place for the flow, deposit or conduct of tailings or refuse matter;

76 ~~[(7)]~~ (g) byroads leading from a highway to:

77 ~~[(a)]~~ (i) a residence; or

78 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) a farm;

79 ~~[(8)]~~ (h) telecommunications, electric light and electric power lines, sites for electric  
80 light and power plants, or sites for the transmission of broadcast signals from a station licensed  
81 by the Federal Communications Commission in accordance with 47 C.F.R. Part 73 and that  
82 provides emergency broadcast services;

83 ~~[(9)]~~ (i) sewage service for:

84 ~~[(a)]~~ (i) a city, a town, or any settlement of not fewer than 10 families;

85 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) a public building belonging to the state; or

86 ~~[(c)]~~ (iii) a college or university;

87 ~~[(10)]~~ (j) canals, reservoirs, dams, ditches, flumes, aqueducts, and pipes for supplying  
88 and storing water for the operation of machinery for the purpose of generating and transmitting  
89 electricity for power, light or heat;

90 ~~[(11)]~~ (k) cemeteries and public parks~~[-, except for a park whose primary use is:]; and~~  
 91 ~~[(a) as a trail, path, or other way for walking, hiking, bicycling, or equestrian use; or]~~  
 92 ~~[(b) to connect other trails, paths, or other ways for walking, hiking, bicycling, or~~  
 93 ~~equestrian use;]~~

94 ~~[(12)]~~ (l) sites for mills, smelters or other works for the reduction of ores and necessary  
 95 to their successful operation, including the right to take lands for the discharge and natural  
 96 distribution of smoke, fumes, and dust, produced by the operation of works, provided that the  
 97 powers granted by this section may not be exercised in any county where the population  
 98 exceeds 20,000, or within one mile of the limits of any city or incorporated town nor unless the  
 99 proposed condemner has the right to operate by purchase, option to purchase or easement, at  
 100 least 75% in value of land acreage owned by persons or corporations situated within a radius of  
 101 four miles from the mill, smelter or other works for the reduction of ores; nor beyond the limits  
 102 of the four-mile radius; nor as to lands covered by contracts, easements, or agreements existing  
 103 between the condemner and the owner of land within the limit and providing for the operation  
 104 of such mill, smelter, or other works for the reduction of ores; nor until an action shall have  
 105 been commenced to restrain the operation of such mill, smelter, or other works for the  
 106 reduction of ores.

107 (3) The right of eminent domain may not be exercised on behalf of the following uses:

108 (a) except as provided in Subsection (2)(c)(iv), trails, paths, or other ways for walking,  
 109 hiking, bicycling, equestrian use, or other recreational uses, or whose primary purpose is as a  
 110 foot path, equestrian trail, bicycle path, or walkway;

111 (b) (i) a public park whose primary purpose is:

112 (A) as a trail, path, or other way for walking, hiking, bicycling, or equestrian use; or

113 (B) to connect other trails, paths, or other ways for walking, hiking, bicycling, or  
 114 equestrian use; or

115 (ii) a public park established on real property that is:

116 (A) a century farm; and

117 (B) located in a county of the first class.