



*The Property Rights Action Caucus is proud to welcome our newest member Rep. Virgil Goode.*

2

## 2nd Annual International Property Rights Index Unveiled

The Property Rights Alliance (PRA) announced the release of the 2008 International Property Rights Index (IPRI), which measures 115 countries on the significance of both physical and intellectual property rights and their protection for economic well being. Forty-one organizations from six continents partnered with Property Rights Alliance in Washington, DC and its Hernando de Soto Fellowship program to disseminate the report. The report's author, Satya Thallam, was PRA's 2007 Hernando de Soto Fellow.

The International Property Rights Index seeks to assist underperforming countries to develop robust economies through an emphasis on sound property law, creating social and economic stability and the freedom to trade in goods and ideas. The Index gives researchers, policymakers and the public around the globe a tool for comparative analysis and future research. The report can be found at: [internationalpropertyrights.org](http://internationalpropertyrights.org)

3

## China's No. 1

By Li Ping (The American Spectator - 2/25/2008)



The central government of China, facing a daunting task of building a harmonious society and developing the country in a balanced way, issued the No. 1 Central Document, its first major policy directive of the year, on the eve of the New Chinese Year. The document is unprecedented in its concern for land rights, and the degree of detail it devotes to specific mandates to protect the land rights of the 700 million rural Chinese.

This document is Beijing's strongest response yet to the disturbing fact that farmers' individual land rights remain insecure a quarter-century after the breakup of the collective farms, discouraging investment in land improvements and facilitating rampant land expropriations and irresponsible urban development.

[http://www.spectator.org/dsp\\_article.asp?art\\_id=12790](http://www.spectator.org/dsp_article.asp?art_id=12790)

1

## JOIN THE PROPERTY RIGHTS ACTION CAUCUS!!!

I invite you all to join the new Property Rights Action Caucus for weekly information & for defending these rights. Our liberties are only as secure as our property rights.

We will examine: eminent domain, federal government property ownership, downloading of multimedia, the Endangered Species Act, patent reform, pharmaceutical issues, compulsory licensing, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) & all issues of land and intellectual property.

Please contact Stephen Kraly at 202-225-4101 or [stephen.kraly@mail.house.gov](mailto:stephen.kraly@mail.house.gov) for membership and info.

He says U.S. citizens and companies lost roughly \$8 billion at today's prices in confiscated property in Cuba and have 5,911 claims pending with the U.S. government's Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/globalNews/idUSN2125218720080221>

4

## Wyo. Panel Rejects Limits on Land Sale

(AP - 2/25/08)

A legislative committee rejected an amendment Monday that would have barred Wyoming landowners from selling their land separately from the space below it.

The Senate Judiciary Committee passed a bill that would give Wyoming landowners rights over pore space below their surface property. Subsurface space can be leased to companies for energy storage. However, the committee voted to leave it up to the courts to determine whether pore space is severable from land ownership on a case-by-case basis.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/5567923.html>

5

## Thorny property rights dispute looms over Cuba

By Tom Brown (Reuters - 2/21/08)

A multibillion-dollar battle over property confiscated after Cuba's 1959 revolution edged closer this week with the retirement of veteran leader Fidel Castro, a leading lawyer for Cuban exiles believes.

"Historically, it's a milestone," Miami lawyer Nicolas Gutierrez told Reuters.

**For more information on the Property Rights Action Caucus, please visit <http://broun.house.gov/prac>. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Caucus please contact Stephen Kraly at 202.225.4101 or [Stephen.Kraly@mail.house.gov](mailto:Stephen.Kraly@mail.house.gov).**