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ON DESTINY AND EMINENT DOMAIN

BODY:

John Paradis: Owner of Stadium International Trucks Inc. and Idealease of CNY, LLC. The trucking terminal has been on Terminal Road since 1972.

What he says: "If they ruled in favor of us it would have let the OCIDA (county development agency) folks off the hook. I think they're struggling with this issue, I really do. I think they want to do the right thing. But now that the Supreme Court has said it's OK to do that the ball's back in their court and that puts a lot of pressure on... . I don't believe that taking private land for a private developer is constitutional, but you have to live with what they rule by."

Terry Turnipseed: Assistant professor of law at Syracuse University. He teaches property law and estate planning at SU.

What he says: "The court said today in a 5-4 decision that local government can seize a person's home or business to make way for private economic development. The 5-4 decision is clearly a defeat for property owners, both business and homeowners, where government is trying to step in and take their property in order to give it to another private entity to redevelop it. ... I think what this means for projects in New York state and every state is that there's very little limitation now on what qualifies as public use. And as long as you can take property and show that you are going to be upgrading that property in some way and that it's part of some sort of overall redevelopment plan, then the federal constitution is not going to bar a local or state entity from taking the land.

Donald Western: Onondaga County director of economic development.

What he says: "Given the tone of the questioning in front of the court back in February when it was presented, (the decision is) not a total surprise. ... It seems to confirm how public use has evolved to the broader stretch of public purpose. ... Condemnation is very rarely considered and even more rarely actually used. In the 34-year history of the county industrial development agency, they never actually condemned property. Only once would I say, ... a public hearing been held. ... My hope is we never have to think about having it apply. We want it to be an extraordinarily unique situation."

Destiny USA: Executives with the developer Thursday did not return phone seeking comment on the decision.

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