

PROPERTY RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC.

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FOUNDED 1994

*The right to own private property is a fundamental American freedom that
guarantees personal liberty and promotes economic prosperity.*

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February 15, 2010

The Honorable Scott Murphy
United States House of Representatives
33 Glen Street, Ste. 202
Glens Falls, NY 12801

Re: State policies making housing
unaffordable in the Adirondacks

Dear Congressman Murphy:

Do you remember my letter that I hand delivered to you when you visited the Stony Creek Mercantile last August? The letter was about how the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development is currently working out a settlement with Westchester County that the county must make available “affordable housing” in some of its wealthier communities, such as Scarsdale?

The drift of the letter was that private property rights need protection here in the Adirondacks, where much of your District is located. At the August meeting, only two people in the audience, a man from Warrensburg and a man from Johnsbury—none of the packed little crowd from Stony Creek—were interested in a positive way in either of your two themes, the Administrations plan to, as we see it here, nationalize health care or your offer of government (taxpayer) money to infuse economic development. But there were a few people who took up the issue of private property rights and the APA. Your staff took down names as though these were individual constituent problems.

I hope that you did indeed use your influence to solve these typical APA-induced problems. But the gray cloud of this repressive agency remains over all of us. I think that the programs of the APA and DEC to excessively regulate private land to the detriment of the ability of ordinary local people to own or use land, to constrict the use of state-owned land to their privileged clientele, and to acquire an ever greater proportion of the private land for the state are indeed directed, not accidentally by natural economic forces as in Scarsdale, but with a specific intention to carry out an agenda to force the people out, and that these policies are a violation of the Federal Fair Housing Act, to say nothing of the laws that would enforce the Constitution.

That is why I delivered that letter to you.

Continued...

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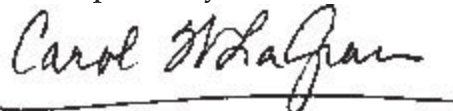
The people who participate in PRFA are asking me what your response has been to the letter. I hope that you will feel obligated to give a more specific response than the positive, but vague, interest expressed at the meeting. You seemed quite taken by the spontaneous illustrations of my short remarks. You could make a supreme difference here if you could find a way for the federal government to exert its constitutionally granted powers to protect the local people, much as the federal government protects persons of color, people discriminated against because of sex or age and the like, or, by the application of the Fair Housing Act, people who are blatantly discriminated against by deliberate government effort to prevent them from having housing.

You will find countless illustrations of statements of intention to make it impossible for people to use supposed natural resource land, which will amply illustrate this intention. And, if you'd like to look further at the deliberate intent to depopulate the Adirondack "Park" of all but the well heeled and the tiny hamlet-based servant class, please read the short introduction in the enclosed newsletter reporting on our Thirteenth Annual Conference on Private Property Rights.

We people here could really be well served by your ability to champion our cause. You undoubtedly have noticed the many prominent articles that have been building up recently, exposing the corruption of the APA and calling for its abolition and for the end to state land acquisition. The issues of which I speak have come to a head. Leadership such as you could extend could be pivotal.

With very best regards,

Respectfully,



Carol W. LaGrasse
President

P.S. Please accept my appreciation for Blake Anderson's very courteous reception of my hurried, unannounced visit when I was in Washington, D. C., on January 21 to present testimony to the U. S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, against Rep. Maurice Hinchey's proposed study to create a Hudson River Valley National Park "unit," as the hearing program stated—a significant amount of this in your District.

Enc.

NYPR Clearinghouse V 13 N 3 (Please see p. 3, article on your Stony Creek visit)

NYPR Clearinghouse V 13 N4 (Report on PRFA conference on the Adirondacks)