

PROPERTY RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC.

P.O. Box 75, Stony Creek, New York 12878 - 518/696-5748

FOUNDED 1994

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

Website: www.prfamerica.org

E-mail: prfa@prfamerica.org

August 19, 2009

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 Representative Murphy:

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.

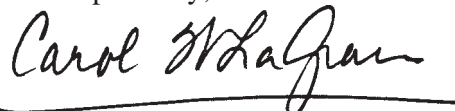
This court settlement is being reached in spite of the fact that the court did not find that the county was conducting any specific policies that made housing unaffordable, but rather because the county's efforts to create affordable housing were insufficient. ("Color Coding the Suburbs," Editorial, *The Wall Street Journal*, August 15, 2009)

The problem of unaffordable housing also exists in the 6,000,000-acre Adirondack region. However, the cause is not government's inadequate positive action, but, rather, mainly direct government action. I believe that the federal government has an opportunity to rectify the dismal housing situation here by enforcing principles of fair housing law or by passing legislation to this effect.

Here in the Adirondacks, housing is unaffordable mainly because of policies of the State of New York: the state's constant stream of acquisition of land for the forest preserve (now totaling approximately 3,000,000 acres), the state's exploding acquisition of development rights (which now eliminate all future homes on another 700,000 acres), and the state's governor-appointed zoning agency, which administers a land use plan with 87 percent of the remaining private land zoned for either 42.7 acres or 8.5 acres per house and other costly restrictions.

The people of the Adirondacks are not trying to move into exclusive suburban enclaves like Scarsdale. They would like to be able to merely stay in the communities where their parents and grandparents lived. I'd like to urge you to use your federal office to rein in the State of New York's policies that are the leading causes of making housing unaffordable in the Adirondacks.

Respectfully,



Carol W. LaGrasse
President