

# PROPERTY RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC.

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FOUNDED 1994

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

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March 17, 2020

Stealth Adirondack Park Legislation  
Threatens Property Owners and Tax Base  
Assembly Bill 8123A

Dear Sir or Madam:

As an elected official and leader, your proven commitment to the wellbeing of the citizens who own land and homes in the Adirondacks stands as a potential bulwark to protect the property owners and tax base of the municipality that you represent.

Your specialized knowledge of the land ownership patterns and the real property tax system, as well as the position you hold to defend the property owners can be a strong defense against radical legislation, Assembly Bill 8123A, that theoretically has majority support in both houses.

My husband Peter LaGrasse, Sole Assessor for the Town of Stony Creek, and I listened with shock to prominent Glens Falls-based attorney Dennis J. Phillips's speech, "Adirondack Pearl Harbor: Attempted Sneak Attack on Adirondack Landowners," at the Twenty-Third Annual National Conference on Private Property Rights in October.

Dennis Phillips warned about an expansion of rules that would have put land ownership in the Adirondacks in the garbage heap. However, the bill's proponents seemed to have forgotten about how we people had amazed the radical environmentalists by instead bulldozing their earlier legislative package of regulations into in a dead mound just about thirty years ago. We even shocked the radicals by causing the Election Day defeat of the Environmental Bond Act that was to pay for the two to three million acres of Adirondack land that they expected the owners would be forced to sell.

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This past October, Mr. Phillips explained how the current harsh proposal is now slipping around the legislature, whereby owners of large lots would face countless prohibitively expensive environmental studies of land they want to sell, and they'd be forced to squeeze all development into one cramped corner of their property, while paying the cost of studying the entire property. These rules would make hopes for the development unrealistic.

My husband Peter warns that a separate degeneration of the **tax base** would be caused by the proposed legislation. Even top value lake-front property (think Lake George) could be strangled by ludicrous analysis of every imaginable "environmental asset." Not only would private payment of property taxes fade drastically, but the state's payment of taxes to localities on its land throughout the Adirondacks, including the vast state forest land holdings, would drop radically because state-owned land must be taxed to the same standards as the private land.

Your leadership is crucial! We thank you for taking up the call to stop Assembly Bill 8123A.

Sincerely,



Carol W. LaGrasse  
President  
Property Rights Foundation of America, Inc.

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