

# PROPERTY RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA®

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FOUNDED 1994

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Dear Friend:

Greetings from Stony Creek in the Adirondacks!

It is a pleasure to write to you again, especially as we are about to begin the twenty-fourth year of the Property Rights Foundation of America® in just a few weeks.

We'll continue to go forward together to accomplish still more important tasks and claim more victories for fundamental private property rights.

Let's look at one of the long-standing examples of our work together and our seemingly unlikely progress.

Sometimes the infringements on private property rights are specific to one location, where the people I've met fear being deprived of the constitutional right to use their private property—in this situation to engage in unglamorous occupations such as scrap recycling or used auto parts sales.

Occupations like these are essential to the ability of ordinary people to keep their vehicles running and are the foundation for environmentally sound reuse of valuable metals cycled back into the manufacturing stream.

The beliefs in freedom and constitutional property rights that you and I share are the explanation for our commitment to stand for over seven years with the men and women originating from around the globe who now operate small businesses in the unique industrial community in Willets Point in Queens County, New York City.

Working together to organize and fund our annual national conferences, we have been privileged to repeatedly host stellar media expert Robert LoScalzo showing these hard-working immigrants selling vehicle parts, reupholstering, replacing auto radiators, and more. This year the vast majority are still "Open for Business," as depicted in Mr. LoScalzo's U-Tube for Willets Point United, in spite of the city's every effort to obliterate them and turn the land over to well-connected developers. Each year the situation changes.

Through our annual conferences, which each host about twelve expert speakers, we have displayed the importance of the various battles that the people of Willets Point have fought. And, as happened in the Willets Point eminent domain battle, donors' support was greatly multiplied, because top attorneys with their international headquarters in Washington, D.C., donated their expertise to effectively challenge the wealth of the City of New York and the developers.

Mr. LoScalzo reported this year on success in the state's highest court by a coalition that included Willets Point led by State Senator Tony Avella. The industrial community was spared again, by saving nearby parkland where a shopping mall was slated to be built, with Willets Point used for parking for the mall. During this litigation, the Property Rights Foundation hosted a press conference in Senator Avella's office to present him with our *Freedom Award*.

## Property Rights Foundation of America®

In this continuing struggle, we ironically have to fight overarching government that is both anti-environmental and anti-freedom.

And we can win. But support like yours is essential. It's that simple.

Over the years, our successes have ranged from saving over 200 hunting camps on 139,000 forested acres where the State of New York was acquiring conservation easements to stopping the UNESCO designation of the Catskill Mountains Biosphere Reserve.

People have told me that some of our goals were far-fetched. Lawyers had already advised the hunters that they had no way to even get into court. Experts on the National Park Service said that it was impossible to stop a UNESCO application that had gone all the way to Paris.

But the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation withdrew all its conservation easement deeds and filed replacement deeds allowing the hunting camps to stay in perpetuity. And Congressman Gerald B. Solomon wrote the series of letters that I requested, and one day his aide handed me the letter that I wanted, the one from the National Park Service stating that the UNESCO designation had been withdrawn from Paris.

In contrast to the naysayers, by working together, we make our visions reality.

Each of our goals took different tactics and means of operation. And the nitty-gritty of every one of our property rights projects has depended on the information, inspiration, and generosity of loyal people like you.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your personal commitment to the two-part mission of the Property Rights Foundation of America® to promote private property rights and the American tradition of private land ownership.

With Very Best Wishes to You and Yours  
for the Holiday Season and the New Year,



Carol W. LaGrasse  
President