Key issues of PRFA’s leadership during the twenty years since its founding in 1994.

PRFA has communicated a well-grounded level of understanding about how the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution is being undermined. Over twenty years, this understanding had been built by combining in-depth information about frameworks for environmental preservation or for total regulation of business with a wide range of specific reports about governmental attacks on fundamental private property rights and private ownership of land. Because of their knowledge, citizens have effectively defended their liberty on many fronts. PRFA’s leadership has had a powerful influence on government policy.

Environmental Regulation

In our inaugural publications, PRFA exposed the malevolent, exaggerated, and fallacious nature of much modern environmental regulation and the fact that it had the capacity to control every detail of human life. The Clean Water Act was, of course, a primary source of power for purposeless micro-regulation and land use controls, but was little understood at the time. These was some of our boldest publications, yet were possible because of civil engineering expertise. Thousands of copies were reprinted and distributed upon request.

Eminent Domain

Early on, we wrote about the increasingly aggressive use of eminent domain by cities against ordinary neighborhoods. Then, through the help of highly respected attorneys, we stood with the Susette Kelo group of plaintiffs against New London, Connecticut, with friends of the court briefs at both stages of the appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. During the most recent years, with a brilliantly prepared friend of the court brief by leading attorneys and continuing involvement, PRFA is standing with the unique community of small auto repair and parts places in Willets Point, New York, against the City of New York’s scheme to eradicate their entire community and give it to developers.

Zoning

Our uncompromising stance against zoning has been borne out and validated time and time again, whether during desperate appeals for help from victims of arbitrary and corrupt urban, suburban, and rural zoning, or when constructive citizens sought advice and requested over the years many thousands of reprints of our publications to use while fighting the implementation of zoning.

Preserving communities and culture

This is the reason that spurred the founding of PRFA. We’ve stood for the commonality of interests of people such as residents, private property owners, hunters, and those in resource-based industries and small businesses, to stop cultural eradication, government-facilitated gentrification and depopulation. The lawsuit we organized united the hunting clubs on the Champion International tracts: After ten years New York State filed a revised conservation easement that allowed 220 doomed hunting camps to stay in perpetuity.

National Heritage Areas

Beginning with Hudson River and the “Mississippi River Corridor” in 1994, PRFA exposed to national scrutiny the National Park Service scheme to designate national heritage areas or “river corridors” to establish greenways and gentrify stretches of rural land and ultimately form a working grid of preserved landscape. The ultimate underlying goal is to restore most of the country to natural areas. Government-imposed gentrification is battering both urban and rural communities. We continue to be called to speak at Congressional hearings about these designations and related national parks.
Conservation Easements

With a stream of articles and speeches, PRFA exposed to national attention the anti-property owner and anti-rural people nature of conservation easements, and their capacity to tie resource-based production in knots. We also warned about the specifics of typical conservation easements and advocated for property owners who cannot resist the sugared-over enticements or quick cash incentives. Our ground-breaking publication on conservation easements continues to be in high demand.

Land Trusts

Long before anyone else, PRFA dug into the nature of land trusts behind their slick exterior, exposed their profit-taking at the taxpayer expense by flipping land to the government, and wrote about the predictable harm to rural communities.

Government Acquisition of Land

The down-side of government ownership of land is better understood in the West than in the East. Generally, rural groups in New York State selectively have fought only eminent domain clauses in state-wide land acquisition legislation, which has been an easily defeated strawman, whereas only PRFA and a few individuals understood what was so well perceived in the Western states, that land should remain in private hands for rural communities to survive. Stopping government land acquisition has been a major focus of PRFA.

Regional Planning and Land Designations

PRFA continually reaches a local and national audience on this very important issue. We’ve hammered relentlessly on the destructive nature and specific abuses by New York State’s Adirondack Park Agency, the premier regional zoning agency in the United States, and the agency invariably cited by expert advocates as the model for whatever regional zoning they seek.

Biosphere Reserves

We exposed the nature of UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designations with their danger to private property owners and the future of rural communities because of the fundamental goals to “restore” vast areas of land to a condition uninfluenced by human beings. We were correctly “blamed” for the U. S. Department of State’s withdrawal of the application for the Catskill Mountains Biosphere Reserve in New York State from UNESCO in Paris, France.

Urban and Rural America:
Supporting People Who Face Private Property Rights Infringements

With its twenty-year involvement in issues such as zoning, building codes, eminent domain, forced gentrification, and now in emerging practices such as “urban homesteading” by trespass, rurally based PRFA joins people in urban and rural America in a single organization devoted to private property rights and the American tradition of private landownership

- December 2013

For additional copies at no charge, of the “Twenty-Year List,” and a copy of PRFA’s December 2013 official letter explaining how the “Reverse Constitution” has been enabling the unjust extension of freedom-crippling government power, please contact:

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