

TOM REED
23RD DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HUMAN RESOURCES
OVERSIGHT
SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
1504 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3223
PHONE: (202) 225-3161
www.reed.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Defend Our Nation's Property Owners
Support the *Defense of Property Rights Act*

Dear Colleague:

Private property is essential to our freedom as Americans. The right to private property was recognized by our Founding Fathers in the Fifth Amendment, which states that "... nor shall private property be taken for public, use without just compensation". This clause is a central tenant of the Fifth Amendment and critical to the rights of private property owners. Unfortunately the Federal Government, States and local governments have infringed upon these rights by limiting the use of property and affecting the property's value.

The Defense of Property Rights Act:

Compensation

- Provides opportunity for compensation for property owners, when government action significantly impairs the ownership of their property.
- Promotes accountability by requiring government actors to consider compensating impacted property owners.

Legal Reform

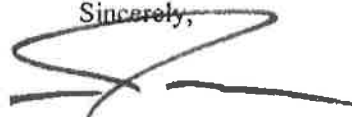
- Streamlines Federal Court process to ensure an avenue to adjudicate claims
- Helps ensure fundamental fairness is provided to property owners

In addition to the important points noted above the *DOPRA*:

- Significant impairment of action is set at \$20,000 or 20% whichever is less
- Establishes a 6 year statute of limitations
- Allows attorney fees to be awarded to prevailing property owner
- Sets in place an arbitration or settlement process between parties
- Ensures that nothing in the bill is construed with the State authority to create additional property rights
- Takes effect upon enactment

To cosponsor the *Defense of Property Rights Act* or if you have any questions please contact Drew Wayne in my office at [202-225-3161](tel:202-225-3161) or drew.wayne@mail.house.gov. I look forward to working with you on this important issue for all Americans.

Sincerely,



Tom Reed
Member of Congress

CORNING DISTRICT OFFICE
89 WEST MARKET STREET
CORNING, NY 14830
PHONE: (607) 654-7566

GENEVA DISTRICT OFFICE
433 EXCHANGE STREET
GENEVA, NY 14456
PHONE: (315) 759-5229

OLEAN DISTRICT OFFICE
1 BLUEBIRD SQUARE
OLEAN, NY 14760
PHONE: (716) 379-8434

JAMESTOWN DISTRICT OFFICE
2 EAST 2ND STREET, SUITE 300
JAMESTOWN, NY 14701
PHONE: (716) 708-6369

ITHACA DISTRICT OFFICE
401 EAST STATE STREET, SUITE 304-1
ITHACA, NY 14850
PHONE: (607) 222-2027