

25 September, 2008

Right Hon. Mr. Steven Harper
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Harper,

During the period leading up to the last federal election, you and your party made a strong commitment to enshrining property rights in our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The memberships of our respective organizations are concerned that this important issue has not been addressed during this election campaign by the Conservative Party of Canada.

There has never been a greater need for effective property rights than at this point in time. Our governments continue to develop legislation that imposes certain debilitating effects on rural landowners: the cost of regulatory compliance is often prohibitively high; the affected land cannot be used to generate a profit; and, the land value subsequently declines. The various pieces of legislation contain no provisions for compensating the affected landowners. As a consequence, small rural businesses and farms are closing at an alarming rate.

It is a credit to you and your government that Canada has successfully projected itself onto the international stage as a fair, honest and compassionate, modern democracy. We ask that you reinforce those principles by publicly committing yourself and your government to providing Canadians with the effective property rights that they need and deserve.

We look forward to hearing this message. Please give our members - and the rest of Canada's rural population - a good reason to come out on Election Day.

Yours truly,

Jack MacLaren, President,
Ontario Landowners' Association

Norm Ward, President,
Alberta Property Rights Initiative

CC: Conservative MPs