



December 30, 2014

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Peter Bauer
Executive Director

Mr. John Gereau
Editor
Denton Publications
14 Hand Avenue
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

Dear Editor:

Your editorial, "Abolish Protect the Adirondacks" (December 24, 2014), is poorly researched, inaccurate, and inflammatory—nothing more than an effort to silence those voices with which you disagree. Basic factual mistakes include names of Board members (it's Bob Glennon, not John Glennon) and where our headquarters is located (it's Lake George, not Niskayuna). All of this information is easily accessible on our website.

Among other things, you would have found that PROTECT has more local residents on its Board of Directors than any other Adirondack environmental group, and likely more than most other major Adirondack non-profits: two-thirds of our Board live in the Adirondacks year-round; one-third make their livings here; and five operate their own businesses here. In these areas, PROTECT's Board has higher representation than other groups.

In the last year, PROTECT played a key leadership role in passing new statewide aquatic invasive species control legislation. We broke stories about violations of laws and regulations on the Forest Preserve and successfully called upon the APA to begin State Land Master Plan reform efforts in transparent public forums. We worked with other groups to force the state to rescind a troubling and illegal plan for the new Essex Chain Lakes area. We helped stop expansion of environmentally damaging ATV use on public and private lands in New York. We also work in partnership with over 75 lakes associations and Paul Smith's College to manage the largest water quality monitoring program in the Park. This program provided scientific evidence of extensive road-salt pollution in Adirondack waters and has catalyzed Park-wide action.

PROTECT's successes were enabled by the hard work of our executive director, whom you attacked baselessly. Peter Bauer has a long resume, working in the Adirondacks as a journalist, serving on a state commission, and leading various Adirondack Park environmental non-profits for 25 years. He has served on numerous state and private task forces and advisory bodies dealing with Adirondack Park issues, published investigative reports, authored chapters in books, written widely for numerous publications, testified before various state legislative committees, and has won many environmental victories. He also serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Lake George.

The editors at Denton Publications are clearly agitated by PROTECT's efforts and lawsuit to oppose what we see as a ruinous approval by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) for the 6,000-acre Adirondack Club & Resort project. We focused mostly on the impact of

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this approval on lands classified as Resource Management under the APA Act. We feared this project would set a negative precedent for poorly designed large-scale subdivisions. Our fears have, unfortunately, been realized, as we're now seeing a new 1,100-acre subdivision on Resource Management lands in the southern Adirondacks, designed the same way, with far flung lots and house sites connected by roads and power-lines. We believed in the merits of this case and are disappointed that this bad precedent for the development of Resource Management lands will stand. We have no objection whatever to a bustling Adirondack economy; we simply want the state to follow its own laws and regulations.

While you take PROTECT to task for allegedly wasting public resources through our challenge to the APA's approval of the Adirondack Club & Resort, you were strangely quiet with respect to unsuccessful lawsuits and appeals by local governments in the Adirondacks, brought and defended on both sides with public monies, over new APA shoreline regulations. According to you, it's okay for some to litigate, but not for us.

The most troubling aspect of Denton Publications' editorial is your naked call to censorship and suppression of voices that you disagree with. Denton Publications' effort to silence or abolish a voice in public life you don't like is a dangerous step indeed. What's next? Your editorial calling for censorship and abolishment of PROTECT's right to public speech undermines free thought, free expression, and any hope for a diverse, pluralistic, and open American civil society.

Just so you know, Protect the Adirondacks is here to stay. This is America after all, and everybody gets a voice.

Sincerely,

Charles Clusen
Chair of the Board of Directors
Protect the Adirondacks