

Barbara A. Lewis

Dear Governor Spitzer,

My husband and I operate a large USDA certified organic farm in the Adirondacks. The farm represents a great investment for us. We have worked for twenty years to get where we are.

Klaas and Mary-Howel Martens of Lakeview Organic Grains, Peru, New York, respected in the organic farming community and leading farmers themselves, say we are among the top four in size in the state, and among the "very best in our approach - best in the state, nation and world - to organic farming." As Mr. Martens has told Danny Hakim of The New York Times, we teach our experience, revealing the successful techniques of our cultivation system, our drain-for-thought strategy, cutting edge rock-based surface drainage, and soil preservation strategies.

We provide internships and apprenticeship training to agricultural students from as far as France and Nepal. We are building houses for staff and their families, students and apprentice candidates. Our farm is accredited at universities. We encourage a sense of community and a nurturing farm life.

We believe in the nuclear family. When possible, we recruit accordingly. We seek from the region, the nation, Europe, Africa and Asia. We avoid the bunkhouse or shack for our farm families. This approach will neither lead to self-sustaining nor to dedicated staff. We are experiencing difficulty in recruitment. We hope our housing addresses this concern.

The Department of Ag and Markets maintains under applicable law that farmers have the right to farm and may build a house for staff and their families without interference or penalty. Our Town of Essex agrees, and has issued five placement permits at my request. The Town CEO said we did not require APA action, as we are a farm, farming in an Ag District.

The Adirondack Park Agency disagrees with Ag and Markets and with our Town of Essex. The APA position violates law, and violates our rights under law, according to three counsel sought, our Town and its counsel.

The Farm Bureau joins us in this matter as does the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Respectfully, we ask that you address the policy dispute and positions of your

executive agencies in accord with law.  
On its present course, the APA will destroy  
and dissolve our interest to farm  
here in New York State.

We ask that you stand behind  
your commitment to agriculture, the  
right to farm and intelligent economic  
growth in upstate New York. The North  
Country needs more of us, and we have  
done our best.

My letter covers a White Paper pre-  
pared by counsel.

We invite you to visit, many have  
come, and all are pleased and proud  
at what we have accomplished.

With thanks, I remain, yours,

Sincerely,

Barbara Klein

November 7, 2007

BY HAND

The Honorable Eliot L. Spitzer  
Governor, The State of New York  
Albany, New York

The Lewis Family Farm  
1212 Whallons Bay Road  
Essex, New York 12936

P.S. we will provide electronic data,  
pictures, maps and other information  
if you will give us an ESP to  
which we may send.

farmgirl@bellatlantic.net will find me.....

cc:

SB Lewis

Judith Enck, Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Executive Chambers

Patrick Hooker, Commissioner of Department of Agriculture and Markets

Ruth Moore, Esq., Counsel, Department of Agriculture and Markets

Bob Somers, Farm Protection, Department of Agriculture and Markets

Curt Stiles, Chairman, Adirondack Park Agency

Mark Sengenberger, Acting Executive Director, Adirondack Park Agency

John Banta, Esq., Counsel, Adirondack Park Agency

Frederick H. Monroe, Exec. Director, Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board

Lloyd Moore, Chairman, Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board

Jeff Kirby, Executive Director, New York Farm Bureau

Elizabeth Dribusch, Esq., General Counsel, New York Farm Bureau

Helene R. Dillard, PhD, Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Klaas and Mary-Howell Martens

Anita Deming, Executive Director, CCE

Brian Ruder, President, The Adirondack Council

Brian Houseal, Executive Director, The Adirondack Council

John J. Privitera, Esq.