

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO
SENATOR, 47TH DISTRICT



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April 19, 2010

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Office of the Attorney General
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224-0341

Dear Attorney General Cuomo:

Recent revelations about the state's payment of \$9.8 million for a 20,000-acre tract of land purchased by the state in 2008 have raised questions about this and other purchases that deserve a thorough and speedy investigation to assess whether all steps followed in the process were proper, and whether the state's procedures in making multi-million-dollar purchases of Adirondack land are sufficiently in line with the type of good government practices that prevent even the appearance of an impropriety.

At a time when the financial condition of New York State makes it extremely important how every dollar is spent, and brings into renewed question the idea of whether limited taxpayer dollars should be spent on land purchases, I am deeply disturbed at media accounts noting that the tract of land was sold to the state for \$9.8 million after being purchased for \$6.3 million in 2004. I hope that your review of this purchase will not only examine this incident, but also who is establishing the value of lands and how that process is conducted. Local governments that acquire land often have extensive public review procedures before money changes hands. I hope that similar good government practices are followed at the state level, and if they are not, your review will delineate the steps to be followed to avoid any appearance of misconduct.

I appreciate your willingness to investigate this land sale, and I hope that your review will provide information all of us can use to ensure that state government is acting at all levels in the best interests of all the people of New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph A. Griffo".

Joseph A. Griffo
Senator

