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Question1: Restrict developemenn to land / environment featured areas that make sense for the intended use. Keep the best farm land off limits to developers and the value will stabalize at farming values.

Question2: Continue to build international relationships that are based on trust and mutual needs.

Question3: An age-old problem of free market capitalism ...still the best system we have! Again, if prime farm land is set aside for farming wouldn't that help lower entry and mainenance costs?

Question4: My family owns 80 acres of forestland in Rushford, New York [Allegany County in Western NY]. We?re proud to have owned this land since 1987 and it is planned that we will pass it down for generations to manage for profit and enjoyment. Our family and friends annually harvest from two to nine deer per year, and plant, tend and harvest one or two Christmas trees ? complete with snowball fights and hot cocoa. We make use of our time on this land to teach our children and their friends about habitat and timber and economics.

I am a forester with 25 years experience in western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania. Through my experience, I?m especially concerned that people who own a small portion of forest land feel there is no profitable way for themselves or their heirs to maintain ownership of their tracts. Rather, they feel lucky if someone quotes them a value for timber ?offering them a way to grab at some recouping of capital invested or taxes paid over time, and then sell the land. Any timber offer at all is so often considered the equivalent of a lottery winning. This is not only poor management at the moment but also a breaking of any potential chain of management strategy. In short, the environment is the looser at each turn of ownership. We (non-industrial forestland owners) need Congress's help in providing us with more funding and technical assistance; provisions to give us the resources we need to resist selling our land.

Currently, less than 1% of Farm Bill programs are directed to us as private forest landowners. The 2007 Farm Bill reauthorization provides a chance to improve this number. In the 2007 Farm Bill we need to see more priority given to forestry programs. Please help us to be able to keep our land in the family and continue the good work that we?ve been doing on our land.

Question5: Again; setting aside farm land for farming only ...or providing disincentive to convert it, could help.

Question6: I think government monies (our money) should be used to explor new ideas and support the trial phase of nich marketing but in the long run the products have to survive the markets on their own.