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**January 27, 2015**  Slider & Associates

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Virginia Land Trust’s FAKE

 “Stonewall Jackson-Slept-Here-Claim”

In Government-Sanctioned Easement

*Property Owners Demand Protections against Tyrannical Abuses*

**Richmond,** VA **– January 27 –** Virginia property rights activists, farmers and conservation leaders will give testimony before the Virginia House Agriculture Committee on January 28, 2015 at 8:30AM in the General Assembly Building House Room C in support of Bi-Partisan House Bill 1488 that has received support from more than 5,000 bi-partisan petition signatures.

National Media Coverage of Virginia’s conservation program erupted when a video was leaked of The Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), a 501(c)3 “Land Trust”. The PEC was caught on video conducting an abusive intimidating inspection of a farmer’s closet, bathrooms and attic, plus photographing the personal private possessions and laundry of farmers. The Green Group is alleged to claim they have a right to inspect farmer’s underwear. Documents reveal that PEC entered into a secretive Confidential Arrangement with realtors regarding a farm that had been in private ownership for three years. PEC even wanted to install 24/7 video surveillance cameras to spy on the family at the same farm.

The abusive video can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAywKw93ucs>

 Martha Boneta, the farmer whose property rights are being abused by the PEC, cautions not to blame the entire conservation program for the abusive bad acts of one Land Trust. “I consider myself to be a conservationist,” said Boneta. “I love the land and just want to be left alone in peace to grow my heirloom vegetables and care for my beehives and critters.”

HOWEVER, new evidence exposes that PEC fabricated a Civil War designation that does not exist in a government-sanctioned agricultural easement, stating that Stonewall Jackson bivouacked on a farm. There is no legitimate historical proof whatsoever that Stonewall Jackson was ever on the farm in question. Civil War historians are outraged, calling PEC’s actions as “blatant disregard for Virginia’s history”. A full account of PEC’s bizarre Stonewall Jackson fabrication can be read here; <http://www.varight.com/news/virginia-land-trust-falsifies-stonewall-jackson-slept-here-claim-by-michael-thompson/>.

Virginians who purchase a farm with an agricultural easement have an expectation to be able to farm without being terrorized and abused by a Virginia Land Trust. HB1488 provides some land owner protections.

“We are calling on the legislature to protect property owners, from a program that has no transparency, no standards and no protection for land owners” said Bonner Cohen of the National Center for Policy Research.

**WHO: House Agriculture Committee**

**Delegate Brenda Pogge (R-96th District)**

**Farmers, Property Rights Activists, Leaders**

**WHAT: HB 1488 Hearing: Property Rights & Transparency Legislation

WHEN: Wednesday, January 28th, 2015**

 **8:30a.m.**

**WHERE: Press Conference and Rally at Virginia Capitol Bell Tower**

 **Public Hearing: General Assembly Building**

 **Room C**

 **Richmond, VA**

**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Susan Lider at Slider Associates,** **susan@sliderassociates.com** **(703)866-3707.**

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