



AMBASSADOR OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TIRANA, ALBANIA

May 26, 2010

Bregdeti Association
PO Box 258
Tirana, Albania

Dear Chairman Nesturi:

Thank you for your May 3 letter. I appreciate your raising with me these important issues. As you correctly noted in your letter, the United States closely follows the issue of property restitution in Albania. Recognizing that property rights are the bedrock of a free, democratic society, it troubles me deeply when I hear of the activities you describe in your letter.

The Embassy cannot take sides in particular property disputes. Such issues are a matter for the courts to resolve and the Embassy cannot interfere in the judicial process. Nevertheless, I and others at the Embassy have stressed on numerous occasions with the Albanian government the need to find just and equitable solutions to the thousands of outstanding property disputes all over Albania.

Albania is on the path to European integration and basic human rights such as property rights will fare prominently along the way. As you so accurately described in your letter, the resolution of the outstanding property issues is central to the continued development, both democratic and economic, of Albania. It is critical that Albania resolve these issues in a manner that is transparent, just, and in accordance with the law.

I thank you again for bringing these matters to my attention and I can assure you that the U.S. Embassy in Tirana does not underestimate the importance of this issue, not only to you, but to the members of your Association and to all Albanians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John L. Withers, II".

John L. Withers, II