

Preserving a Family Farm



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- Albert Armand, Farmer

Farming is the Armand family business. The Armands operate two farms totaling more than 900 acres. Their properties include The Harper Valley Farm that has been owned and run by the Armands since 1941.

The Threat

In early 2012 a surveyor showed up at Albert Armand's door. That's when he learned that the Enterprise Pipeline would affect both properties.

"We weren't happy about the prospect of a pipeline," Armand explained. "In the best case scenario we feared it would be a mess for us."

"I actually tried for quite some time to work out a deal regarding land quality issues, but the land agent would not cooperate. The answer was always 'we can't do that. We can't do this.' The land agent implied that if I didn't sign, we would lose in court and get less money than what they were now offering."

How We Helped

Eminent domain attorneys, Goldman & Braunstein, stepped in, collected all the information the Armands could provide, and negotiated what Armand describes as "a more equitable settlement."

Results

Goldman & Braunstein negotiated a settlement that included:

- 5 times more money than the pipeline company originally offered
- A negotiation that preserves the integrity of the Armand family land for future generations.

"It is important for all of us to do whatever we can to look after the quality of the land we grow food on. I wanted to make sure that when this pipeline project was finished the land was as good as it could be. Our attorneys worked very hard to make that happen."