

Marty Homlish

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To: Martha's Vineyard Commission,

My wife Joanne and I have been summer residents on the island for over 45 years. We have owned many boats through the years, and enjoy exploring the waters around the island with friends and family.

I have also been a customer at what is known today as Safe harbor marina through the last 5 owners - From Maciel to Prime to The Safe Harbor team. The service and attention to detail, and the sense of pride in their work at Safe Harbor is many levels above any of the previous owners. Not only do they care about providing an exceptional experience for their clients. They are passionate about protecting and preserving the delicate ecosystem of our Island. And that matters.

Through my years on the island, it is easy to see the level of passion and love that visitors, seasonal and year round residents alike have for the water. Boating in any form is the best way to take in the beauty and bounty the island has to offer, from fishing or cruising to just a leisurely put around the lagoon. Vineyard Haven, and the island has been a major port for centuries. Vineyard Haven has been talking about supporting its working waterfront for 2 decades. However, It appears to me, that has not been happening. The reduction and restriction of projects that support the working waterfront is disappointing and in time will negatively impact the economic success and vibrancy of the town.

When hearing about the Safe harbor project, I personally met with Chris Scott to learn more and fully understand the project. As a Chief Executive of a service based business, I wanted to understand the project from end to end. Not only how will it impact my experience at the marina, but most importantly, how will it affect others. And how will it impact the environment. As we discussed the project, it was very clear that environmental stewardship was a major factor in the marinas entire operation. It was also eye opening to learn the benefits to rack storage in protecting the fragile marine ecology from petrol pollution.

As a resident living on the great pond, I have become very active with the excellent work the great pond foundation is doing on the island. And their work to ensure petrol pollution is controlled and limited on the Islands delicate pond ecosystems. Which is why I strongly support The Safe Harbor plan to extend their Rack System. A much better and environmentally friendlier strategy then the plan I have heard about for the Shipyard to build a series of docks for additional petrol polluting boats. There is no comparison between the two if protecting of the waters on MV matters to The Commission. Which I know it does!

In summary, this project is the most environmentally responsible way to add boating access, waterfront enhancement and economic stimulus for the businesses and the

towns working waterfront. It looks to greatly improve aesthetics of the marina for its customers like myself, ensure continued public access, all while investing in and building up the owns working waterfront. And most importantly protecting and preserving our Island and the waters that surround it.

I am confident that the commission will understand and appreciate the thoughtfulness and integrity that went into the development of this plan. It is good for the community. Which I know is a guiding principal of the Commission.

I am hopeful the plan will meet your approval.

Sincerely,

Martin Homlish