

82 Hatch Road
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
September 20, 2019

Philip P. Hale, Owner & President
Martha's Vineyard Shipyard
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Dear Phil,

I write—as a Tisbury taxpayer, home owner, and boat owner—to offer my endorsement of your proposal to establish a marina on the Lagoon side of the Shipyard property. The town is at a crossroads, and this project is a model of the kind of meticulously designed, environmentally aware thinking on which our shared future depends.

Tisbury needs an expanded tax base, and it needs year-round jobs that will help new generations of residents support families and build lives here. It needs *sustainable* jobs: ones that will continue to exist when, as they inevitably will, the housing bubble begins to deflate and the tourist numbers begin to flatten. The marina project will do just that, and do it while providing townspeople with a service—a place for their boats, and a means of access to the waterfront—that is, in itself, of incalculable value.

The town's "working waterfront" is not—as some well-intentioned but misguided commentators have recently suggested—a quaint anachronism or a bureaucratic pipe-dream. Today, two decades into a new century, it remains what it has been for three centuries past: the town's economic heart and cultural soul, which we neglect at our peril. The craft that drop anchor in its waters, tie up to its wharfs, and discharge their passengers onto its sandy shores have changed profoundly since our fathers' and grandfathers' day, and the waterfront has changed as well. That it *is* continually changing and adapting is certain proof that it is alive.

The challenges facing the waterfront in this no-longer-new millennium are many: creating a harmonious flow of car, bike, and foot traffic; balancing competing uses such as maritime recreation, commercial freight-handling, and inshore fisheries; and—most of all—adapting to rising sea levels and intensifying storms. The Yard's proposed marina project addresses those challenges, and more besides, in good faith and with impressive levels of ingenuity and flexibility. It is a project created both *by* and *for* those who love this town and its waterfront.

I would expect nothing less from the oldest waterfront business on the Island, but you have met those expectations and far exceeded them. I welcome the marina project, and stand ready to support it in any way I can.

With all best wishes,



A. Bowdoin Van Riper