TO: Tisbury Conservation Commission
DATE: September 19, 2019
SUBJECT: Proposed Marina in Vineyard Haven

Commission Members,

This is a letter of support for the new marina development in Vineyard Haven being proposed by the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard.

The proposed project is not only exciting to rally behind, but it is also EXACTLY the type of waterfront development that the all too restrictive waterfront zoning in that particular area was designed to support. The proposed marina is directly a water-related use, and it directly contributes to preserving a working waterfront in Vineyard Haven.

Not only will this project bring new life to the vastly deteriorated Beach Road corridor, but it will also give people (seasonal visitors and year-round people alike) more access to recreational boating – something we should be striving to promote given our coastal blessings and our reliance on in-season tourism. In addition, the marina will add much-needed inventory of local boat slips, as the lack of available moorings and scarcity of public and private dock space is a major deterrent to people having and using boats on Martha's Vineyard.

No doubt this is a significant project for Vineyard Haven, with all sorts of logistical challenges surrounding parking, traffic, shellfish preservation, etc., but I can't imagine a more responsible and reputable business to pursue a project of this nature. The MV Shipyard has been in business for 3 generations and currently is probably the largest non-municipal employer of year-round people in Vineyard Haven. We should all rally to support this business' responsible efforts to both evolve their business and bring exciting new opportunities for the boating community of Martha's Vineyard.

Thank you.

Mike Sawyer