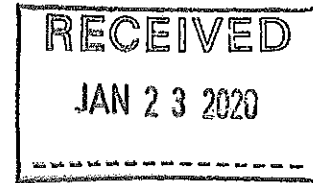


Mr. Adam Turner, Executive Director  
Martha's Vineyard Commission  
PO Box 1447  
Oak Bluffs, Ma 02557  
RE: Martha's Vineyard Shipyard DRI Review

1/121/2020



Dear Mr. Turner,

I am writing in support of the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard's expansion project on the Lagoon in Vineyard Haven. The Shipyard has been an island institution in operation for 175 years. I feel it is vital that our community supports this business' growth.

**Greater Access:**

With this expansion, the Hale family, owners of the Shipyard since 1961, are bringing to the community greater access to the water. Towns have waitlists for moorings: Edgartown 27 years, Vineyard Haven 17 years, Chilmark 22 years, and Oak Bluffs in the Lagoon over 10 years. There have been no new public ramps put in the past ten years in any town. Living on an island, the water is a part of all our lives one way or another. Any improvement to increase access to it is a win for us all. I am supporting this expansion project as it increases access to the water, at a time when its very much needed.

While bringing greater access, the Hales are doing so in a small amount of acreage on the Lagoon. Of the 544 acres making up the Lagoon Pond, this project encompasses 1.6 acres. Only .8 of an acre is truly an expansion for the other .8 of an acre has for 175 years, been the location of four railways, docks, and boat ramps. The acreage increase is a small one with big gains for the community.

**Responsive to Concerns and Our Surroundings:**

The Shipyard is an island business owned by a family who lives here with us year-round. They are sensitive to concerns raised about this project. They've moved the channel location, will not have any overnight occupations in the slips, and will remove the docks before the start of the scallop season. They demonstrate sensitivity to our surroundings with their business practices. The Shipyard's closed pressure washing station, which catches ALL water and prevents the flow of unfiltered bottom wash into the harbor, is an example of this. This practice is a voluntary one showing real sensitivity to their surroundings.

**Provides Quality Job Opportunities and Supports the Community**

They provide quality job opportunities by offering high paying, fully benefited, year-round careers on the water. This expansion in operations will result in more high paying, fully benefited, year-round jobs. They support the community, as shown with the Hale's work with SailMV, a non-profit focused on our maritime heritage. SailMV funds our high school's Marine Studies Career Training Educational program, and the Shipyard provides our Maritime Studies high school students with on the job training to expose them to the field. They also offer support to SailMV's adaptive sailing and the Vineyard Cup each year.

This business, its family owners, and their expansion project are worthy of our support. Please support the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard's expansion project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William F. O'Brien, IV". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "F".

William. F. O'Brien, IV