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Jim Vercruysse, Chairman
Martha's Vineyard Commission
P.O. Box 1447
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Subject: Flat Point Farm

Dear Mr. Vercruysse:

I write today in support of the plan submitted for your review by the Fischer family.

During my 14 years as assistant to the West Tisbury Planning Board, the Fischers came to the Board with thoughtful plan after thoughtful plan. Their goal was, and has always been, to divide their property to provide homesites for current and future generations of their family. This process began long before my tenure, and has continued over the six years since I resigned.

The Fischers have been stellar stewards of their beloved Flat Point Farm. In the early 1970s, when they saw that zoning in West Tisbury was coming down the pike, Priscilla and Arnie Fischer Sr. could have subdivided the entire property. But they didn't. They could have created the West Tisbury Riviera. But they didn't.

For well over 50 years the Fischers have rented two cottages on their property, year-round at extremely affordable rates, to young families and local tradespeople. The homes have pristine views. They could easily have rented the cottages seasonally for much more income, exasperating the dreaded "Vineyard Shuffle." But they didn't. And they still don't.

The Fischer Family's contributions to the Town, and indeed, entire Island, are far too numerous to list here. Currently, three generations of the family reside on Flat Point Farm, continuing their farming tradition and love of the land. The plan before you will allow these fine people and future generations to continue their unsurpassed stewardship. Oh, what a different Island we would have today if only other families with large property holdings could have been so prescient and generous.

I appreciate your consideration.

Best regards,

Simone A. DeSorcy
Vineyard Haven (formerly West Tisbury, where my siblings and I had the tremendous fortune of being educated by Priscilla Fischer)