

May 15, 2024

To: Members/staff, Martha's Vineyard Commission

Re: DRI # 34-M5

Dear Commissioners,

I so appreciate the opportunity to once again express my support for this plan.

While I serve on West Tisbury's Mill Brook Watershed Management Planning committee, I write this letter as a private citizen. I am extremely well acquainted with land preservation efforts and water quality issues facing my town. I feel that the plan in front of you is respectful of this land, and these issues.

I have been both amazed and deeply impressed that this family has been able to keep this land intact while navigating the dense, angry tangle that is estate planning on Martha's Vineyard when one is extremely land rich and cash poor. Through several family deaths over the last dozen years and numerous outside pressures, they have maintained a commitment to keeping as much of this farm as open space as they can. That anything remains undeveloped, indeed- that more than half of this land will remain permanently protected open space, is a testament to their commitment to this ideal, and to their long tenure as stewards of this farm.

It is an honor to support the Fischer family, whom I have known my whole life. With your approval of this plan, future generations of this family will continue to live and thrive on this land and farm it as they have done for nearly 100 years now. Nothing less than their continued stewardship of this land will do; this plan lets them do that.

It is my hope that our local film makers will choose to tell the story of this family's efforts to preserve this land- how long it has taken, the terrific stress they have been put under from multiple quarters, and the fact that they have persevered. Such a film would serve as a beacon of hope for other land preservation efforts in our town and on the island.

Thank you all so much for your time, and for your dedication to this important work.

Prudy Burt

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