



Dear Commissioners,

I have eaten at the Red Cat on a number of occasions. As a lifelong fisherman in the waters around Martha's Vineyard I have particularly enjoyed their model that supports local farmers, fisherman, and vendors to prepare and showcase the local bounty. I believe that the value brought to our community by supporting our local farmers and fishermen is irreplaceable and culturally significant to maintaining the Vineyard way of life.

Each time I enjoyed a meal at the Red Cat it became increasingly obvious that the building had reached a tipping point in its useful life and I began to worry that the Red Cat might not remain an island institution much longer. Until recently when I spoke with the owners of the restaurant and the new owners of the building and heard of their plan to create an economically sustainable model through a blend of mixed use commercial and market rate housing. At first I was leery of the construction cost of the new building versus rents that would keep the Red Cat viable in it's current form. Upon further exploration it became obvious that all of the involved parties had developed a financial model to allow the market rate housing to sustain the community benefit of the Red Cat restaurant. As a multigenerational islander I have seen far too many fisheries and farms go by the wayside because they were lacking support of venues like the Red Cat. It's rare that we see such a win-win opportunity for our island community, especially considering the current costs of real estate and construction. I for one, applaud this effort and hope that this proposal can be approved with as little regulatory burden as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Capt Jeff". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Captain Jeffery Canha
Vineyard Haven
February 3, 2020