

D. E. AYKROYD

February 25, 2020

To Whom This May Concern at the Martha's Vineyard Commission:

By way of introduction my name is Dan Aykroyd and I am a Massachusetts resident and state tax payer with a home at 16 Deer Path Lane, Chilmark.

My understanding is that your commission is considering permit application from Ben DeForest, his partners and principals who operate the Red Cat Kitchen in Oak Bluffs, MA.

I am writing in full support of Master Chef DeForest and this enterprise.

Ben is a long time Martha's Vineyard resident who over decades has served seven star victuals and libations to thousands of satisfied, repeat customers at his respective locations throughout his career.

Now Ben looks to build on his impeccable worldwide reputation as a culinary innovator and principled operator while keeping alive a venerable Martha's Vineyard restaurant brand.

Personally I have known Ben deForest since he was 10 years old and have had comfortable personal and professional relationships with him because he is talented as well as honest, ethical and tasteful. The evidence is in his consistent execution of quality, performance and atmosphere enabling the Red Cat Kitchen over the years to generate solvent cash flow for employment and subsequent revenues for the town, county and state.

The expanded Red Cat will be an outstanding attraction all season round and as a commuter from Manter Hill I can assure the members of your commission that my patronage for the Red Cat and that of my family and friends will continue vibrantly as long as we are here on the island. Everyone agrees it's worth the commute.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

With thanks, respect and support,

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