



**The General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

*Senator Julian Cyr · Representative Dylan Fernandes*



January 27, 2023

Mr. Adam Turner  
MVC Executive Director  
33 New York Ave  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Mr. Turner,

We write to express our strong support for the Southern Tier project in Oak Bluffs. The Island's housing crisis continues to displace lifelong residents and working families, negatively impacting the Island's economy and infrastructure. We recently secured \$250,000 for Southern Tier in the Economic Development bill to support this critical project that will increase the Island's affordable housing stock while preserving the balance between development and conservation in the neighboring Southern Woodlands.

Due in large part to the surging real estate market, MVC's 2020 Housing Needs Assessment found that the Island's socio-economic diversity was eroding at an alarming rate. The report found that many households are forced to search farther away from the town's denser areas to find affordable housing, making it difficult to access island resources. Southern Tier is within walking distance to Martha's Vineyard Community Services and provides a walkway to the YMCA of Martha's Vineyard and the MV Regional High School.

The MVC's Housing Needs Assessment also recommended an ambitious goal of producing 50 units of affordable and community housing annually. The Southern Tier project directly tackles this critical need by providing 100% affordable and community housing for year round families and residents. We support Island Housing Trust and Affirmative Investments in their efforts to develop Southern Tier and provide much needed affordable housing to the town of Oak Bluffs.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this worthy application. If you require any further information regarding our support, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dylan F".

Dylan Fernandes  
State Representative  
*Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julian Cyr".

Julian Cyr  
State Senator  
*Cape and Islands*

CC: Alex Elvin, MVC DRI Coordinator  
Rich Saltzberg, MVC DRI Coordinator