

Wendy Wolf

Fri 1/27/2023 11:06 AM

Subject: Southern Tier project

Dear Adam -

In my role as an Island Housing Trust Director, I urge you to quickly approve the Southern Tier project. Please make this email a part of the project's public record and share this with the appropriate staff and all of the Commissioners

The island's affordable crisis is escalating exponentially threatening life as we know it on the vineyard. This, climate change and food insecurity are the island's most daunting issues. As I am sure you are aware, the Island's housing crisis continues to escalate its negative impact on our economy and infrastructure. Empty food shelves, businesses permanently closing, or closing two days a week is clear evidence that this issue must be addressed.

IHT and Affirmative Investments were selected by the Town of Oak Bluffs in response to the town's RFP that clearly recognized the desperate need for attainable housing options. The Southern Tier project directly tackles this critical need by providing affordable and community housing for year-round residents.

Numerous public meetings were held before the project came to the MVC for your review. The design before you is the result of many hours of work by seasoned professionals who had to consider and balance more than a few conditions and variables to satisfy as many constituencies as possible. While I certainly understand some of the concerns raised, it is impossible to provide housing at scale that will please everyone.

This approval needs to be expedited, as delay could jeopardize funding applications that could cost us a year.

In the MVC's language, the benefits to the island - its people, the economy and the community - far outweigh the detriments. Please approve this project as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Wendy Wolf, board member