

John E. Flor
8 Fisk Ave
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

March 12, 2007

Martha's Vineyard Commission
Box 1447
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Re: DRI #598- The Oyster Bar

Dear Commissioners:

My family has owned the home at 8 Fisk Ave since 1988. It's is directly behind Pomodoro's Pizza and adjacent to the Oyster Bar.

This small cottage holds a very special place in my life. It has become over the years the one place where I consider myself to be at home. My family has changed over the years in shape, form and substance. We have had additions through marriage, evolutions through moves and losses because of death. Through all these periods of transition this small cottage has been an anchor of stability and a beacon of hope. I ask the committee with my deepest sincerity and resolve not to threaten this.

I have spent the last four years on the island working at the Steamship Authority, where I feel I have gained a greater understanding of what it means to be part of the greater community which is the Vineyard. The Vineyard is like no place else I have ever been. The sense of spirit in which it is imbued with pervades everywhere. This is a special place to many different people for many different reasons. I think in part what makes the Vineyard so special is the recognition and preservation of this. Unlike many places on the mainland no one value has been allowed to take precedence over all others. Unlike many places on the mainland the interests of a few have not been allowed to subjugate the good of many.

If this expansion is allowed I fear that my place within this community will be lost. I fear that my neighborhoods place within this community will be forgotten. I fear that part of the spirit which makes this community so special will be sacrificed.

Over the last year it has become increasingly difficult to find respite within our neighborhood. The noise levels from the adjacent Oyster Bar have been untenable. Nights which were once filled with tranquility have been erased by a barrage of lewd and indecent voices. Neighborhood streets that were formerly engulfed in the quiet dreams of night have been invaded by the bravado of intoxicated patrons whom use our streets as cigarette parlors, conference rooms and galleries for vandalism. I fear any expansion of the Oyster Bar will only exasperate these problems.

Currently, whenever there is a problem our neighborhoods only recourse is to call the police. This is an undeniable drain on taxpayer's money and more importantly a waste of the finite resources that the police have to protect and preserve our island community with. If this expansion is allowed I fear that this drain on taxpayer's money and misallocation of police resources will only be exasperated. If the current ownership of the Oyster Bar cannot control their patron's actions at the businesses present level

then how can they be expected to control these actions when this business is expanded four folds? The answer is that they cannot. Consequently through an increased misallocation of resources our entire island community will suffer except for the business interests of a few men. Should these business interests be exalted over the good of an entire community?

Finally, not to be remiss, I feel it is necessary to mention a further consequence that I believe that this expansion will present. The Martha's Vineyard Campground Association has been a bedrock foundation for the town of Oak Bluffs and the Island of Martha's Vineyard for over 145 years. It is considered by many Islanders, Visitors and the Federal Government as an historical jewel. In recognition of this fact the Campground was extended National Historical Landmark status. This has been a place of serenity for generations of Islanders. This has been a place where two sitting United States Presidents have come to worship. This has been a place of celebration for countless grade school and high school classes who come together each year for graduation where they celebrate their past and welcome their future. The Campgrounds place in the greater community which is the Vineyard cannot be properly expressed in words for it transcends any one meaning. This is a place not unlike the Vineyard at large that means many different things to many different people. I ask the committee with the utmost humility and deference not to forsake this place.

This proposed expansion will have a detrimental affect on the Campground and in turn on the greater community at large. This will quite literally be a snowflake on the tip of an iceberg. It will create havoc through an influx of people that will come into the campground not to experience the tranquility of its surroundings but instead to add to the revelry of their own amusement. It will create an atmosphere where life long residents will be in constant competition with temporary patrons to retain their rightful parking spaces. It will begin to erode the fabric of tranquility in which the Campground has always offered the island. It will send a message to the community at large that the values and the foundations of the present and past are no longer as important as a single businesses profit's for the future.

I ask you committee to carefully consider the implications that this expansion will entail. I ask you committee to save this place that holds such a special place to our neighborhood and to the larger community which is the Vineyard. I ask you committee not to exalt the interest of a few over the good of many but instead to preserve a way of life that has been present for generations and that should be protected for the future generations of our island community.

Thank You,

Sincerely,

John E. Flor