

January 21, 2013

Martha's Vineyard Commission
P.O. Box 1447, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
Attn: Mr. Paul Foley
Email: foley@mvcommission.org

Cc: West Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals
P.O. Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575
Attn: Julie Keefe, Board Administrator
Email: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov

Re: Objection to Proposed Verizon Cell Tower on Tisbury Great Pond in West Tisbury

Dear Mr. Foley,

I am writing to object to the proposed Verizon cell tower to be located off Town Cove on Tisbury Great Pond. Improving cell service is a laudable goal, but this proposed cell tower would forever change Tisbury Great Pond's uniquely pristine environment and vistas enjoyed by all.

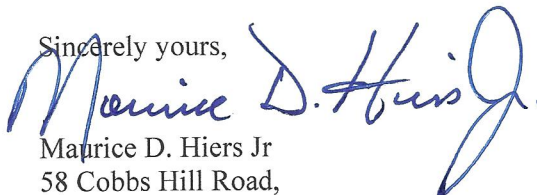
I am a seasonal resident of Chilmark and a riparian owner on Tisbury Great Pond. Our family has been coming to Martha's Vineyard Island since 1886 when my great grandfather Robert Inslee owned all of what is now Blue Heron Farm south to Little Sandy Beach along the western shore of the Tisbury Great Pond.

My objections to the proposed cell tower is that scenic preservation is a paramount value and policy objective for Martha's Vineyard, and coastal and scenic wetlands are especially sensitive and vulnerable. Tisbury Great Pond, its coves and swamps, and its neighboring forests and fields, provides irreplaceable views to visitors as well as both seasonal and year-round residents that would be permanently marred by the cell tower.

Secondly, the Verizon's cell tower is a tall, permanent, industrial intrusion extending more than 40' above a low coastal forest landscape, significantly higher than allowable under zoning bylaws. It would be a sore sight from the banks of our property. The proposed fake pine alternative would be even more conspicuous and visually incongruous, sticking out like a sore thumb from the surrounding low oak forest.

If the Verizon cell tower is allowed, MVC would be obligated to allow similar concessions to competitors and therefore would lose its authority to stop other companies from locating cell towers in coastal and Great Pond locations to the permanent detriment of the scenic beauty of Martha's Vineyard. Please forward my objection to the appropriate parties.

Sincerely yours,


Maurice D. Hiers Jr
58 Cobbs Hill Road,
Chilmark, MA 02535