

TO: The Martha's Vineyard Commission
FROM: John Abrams, South Mountain Company
DATE: April 21, 2014
RE: Stop and Shop

Commissioners:

It's hard to imagine anyone who cares more about Tisbury than planning board co-chairman Henry Stephenson. He thinks deeply about the town and he has a fine sense of design. His Stop and Shop letter to last weeks' papers was right on the mark, in my view.

He proposed the most cogent and thoughtful alternative plan I've seen to date.

I hope you will heed his words about building size, building design, parking, congestion, and traffic, and I hope you will condition the project as he suggests.

I also want to point out something about this development that hasn't been discussed much. The Martha's Vineyard Commission has a responsibility to promote appropriate economic development. I hope you will add to your conditions, if and when you approve a better, scaled down version of the plan that is before you now: that Stop and Shop will be required to provide full time jobs with full benefits at *Living Wages*.

We need good jobs. Part-time jobs at low wages are harmful and unprincipled. Stop and Shop and its parent, Ahold, can afford decency and we cannot afford to accept less.

Thank you,

John Abrams