



**TISBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
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July 18, 2016

Jim Vercruysse, Chairman  
Martha's Vineyard Commission  
PO Box 1447  
Oak Bluffs, Ma 02557

Re: IH Trust Kuehn's Way project

Mr. Vercruysse,

I am writing in regards to Island Housing Trust's proposed housing project on Kuehn's Way in Tisbury. Please be advised that throughout the design process, the Island Housing Trust has been working very closely with our office to address matters of site access and fire protection. This design, as presented, provides for the required emergency access to each unit. Further, with the installation of the cistern, they will provide a source of fire protection for not only Kuehn's Way, but also the surrounding neighborhood.

As the Chief of the Tisbury Fire and EMS Departments, I strongly support the development of affordable housing. This is a significant issue for our members. Over the last 2 years we have lost members of both Fire and EMS to housing issues. Some have left the Island outright, while others are working multiple jobs to meet their housing costs and cannot afford the time to serve. The future of our current Emergency Response system is dependent upon our members having stable and affordable housing.

In closing, I would like note that it has been a pleasure working with the staff at IHT on this project, especially Mr. Derrill Bazzy. They have been most receptive to our input and have promptly responded to all of our concerns. I would hope that they are successful with this review process.

Respectfully,

John F Schilling  
Chief, Tisbury Emergency Services