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Dear Members of the Martha's Vineyard Commission:

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to the Harbor View Hotel's proposal before the MV Commission.

I began vacationing on the Vineyard as a teenager. My parents were eager to connect with a summer community of fellow African Americans who were often not welcome in other places. I continued to visit the Island as a young adult; my husband and I bought our first home in 1998. Having owned property on the Island (in Oak Bluffs and Vineyard Haven) for over 20 years, our family is committed to maintaining and protecting the Vineyard's delicate balance of green, tranquil space for current and future generations while accommodating reasonable commercial interests. It is what makes the Vineyard special, for residents and visitors alike.

Prior to its current ownership, the Harbor View Hotel, while substantial in scale, had not overtaken the peace and tranquility of the experience of the area. The current proposal, however, is overreaching and is not reasonable. Specifically, the current proposal's reliance on upscale eating and drinking, a spa, charter boats and late night partying -- all of which will cater to uber-wealthy tourists, at the expense of the experience for ALL islanders -- will have a negative impact on what makes the Island inclusive and special. This aggressive expansion must be checked.

Sincerely,

