

**From:** [Becky Kidder Smith](#)  
**To:** [Lucy Morrison](#)  
**Cc:** [Alex Elvin](#); [Rich Saltzberg](#)  
**Subject:** Becky Kidder Smith - Letter in Support of the Southern Tier Project  
**Date:** Monday, January 30, 2023 9:46:25 AM

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Dear Mr. Turner

Please accept this as a letter of support for the Southern Tier Project before you.

The Island's housing crisis continues to have a negative impact on our economy and infrastructure. In MVC's own recent housing need assessment concluded that the Island's socio-economic diversity is eroding at an alarming rate, as we see nearly daily as businesses close and people leave the island.

The developers, Island Housing Trust (IHT) and Affirmative Investments (AI) were selected by the Town of Oak Bluffs after replying to the town's Request for Proposals that clearly recognizes the significant need for attainable housing options.

The Southern Tier project directly tackles this critical need by providing affordable and community housing for year-round residents. While I understand some of the concerns raised, it is impossible to provide housing at scale that will 100% please everyone.

I support the IHT and AI team in their efforts to develop Southern Tier and provide the much-needed affordable housing to the Town of Oak Bluffs and Martha's Vineyard. In the MVC's language, the benefits to the island - its people, the economy and the community - of this many housing units far outweigh the detriments. Please approve this project as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Becky Kidder Smith  
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