

From: [Arielle Faria](#)
To: [Lucy Morrison](#)
Cc: [Alex Elvin](#); [Rich Saltzberg](#)
Subject: Faria Family Letter in Support of the Southern Tier Project
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:12:14 AM

Dear Mr. Turner,

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

We are current residents of the Scott's Grove development that started accepting tenants a few years back. The opportunity to have safe, stable and affordable housing for ourselves, our two children and our pup has been life changing. The thoughtfulness in the apartment designs, the energy efficiency and the common spaces are especially detrimental to the comfort, care and sense of community amongst the tenants. Having affordable housing is not merely putting a roof over folks heads, it is considering the quality of life, the safety, the security and the sense of community for the people that live there.

Island Housing Trust and Affirmative investments are keenly aware of these points and have also done so in their thoughtful plans of the Meshacket Commons project and now for the Southern Tier Project.

As affordable housing advocates, we would ask the commissioners to consider the notion that it is within their purview to not only ensure the preservation of land but also preservation of the community and thus its people.

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 we understand some of the concerns raised, it is impossible to provide housing at scale that will 100% please everyone.

We 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.

Sincere Regards,

Arielle and Augusto Faria
West Tisbury