

**From:** [karen tewhey](#)  
**To:** [Adam Turner](#)  
**Cc:** [Alex Elvin](#); [Rich Saltzberg](#)  
**Subject:** Southern Tier support  
**Date:** Monday, January 30, 2023 12:51:46 PM

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TO: Adam Turner, MV Commission  
RE: Letter in Support of the Southern Tier Project

Dear Mr. Turner:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the proposal put forward by Island Housing Trust (IHT) and Affirmative Investments (AI) to develop affordable housing in Oak Bluffs.

This project, development of the Southern Tier into rental housing, has been in the pipeline for several years. The town of Oak Bluffs, in accepting a state grant for \$100,000 to do an engineering and environmental assessment of the property, is committed to following through and developing the land for affordable housing. In addition, the Southern Tier has been identified as a site for expansion of housing opportunities.

The shortage of rental housing units on the Island reached a crisis stage years ago. This project is particularly important in that it is located on a bus line and convenient to town services. This is an attractive location for both singles and families, particularly those who have limited incomes and need to rely on public transportation.

IHT has a well-deserved reputation for developing high quality, energy efficient housing that is compatible with the Island environment. They have earned the trust of the Vineyard community and develop housing that is a valued resource.

I support the IHT and AI team in their efforts to develop the Southern Tier and expand the number of units of affordable housing on Martha's Vineyard.

Thank you for your review of this proposal.

*Karen*

Karen Tewhey

Director of Institutional Advancement

Harbor Homes of Martha's Vineyard