

TO: morrison@mvcommission.org

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Subject: Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee Letter in Support of the Southern Tier Project

Dear Mr. Turner

On behalf of the Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the commissioners and staff of the MVC for their time and effort in pursuit of the conversation and ultimate decision on this important proposal.

We feel that the plan has been well thought out and fits very well into its proposed site. A very practical footprint of streets, sidewalks, bike paths, outbuildings, and residences have been designed and positioned nicely within the natural landscape as they are so adept at doing.

We are very fortunate to have Island Housing Trust and Affirmative Investments to design projects that are attentive to the Island's specific needs. In addition to their broad design skills to a project of this size, they have a remarkable understanding of the various sensitivities that accompany a project like this relative to all of the particular requirements of the unique aspects of Martha's Vineyard.

The residences themselves, as presented, are very up to date models of energy efficiency in both materials used and energy sources.

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, though IHT and AI get very close.

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,

Mark Hess -Chairman of the Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee