

# Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

Excellence and Equity For All Children

**RICHARD M. SMITH, ED.D.**  
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**HOPE T. MACLEOD, M.Ed., BCBA**  
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUPPORT  
SERVICES

**MARK A. FRIEDMAN**  
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

December 13, 2022

Adam Turner  
MVC Executive Director  
33 New York Ave,  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Mr. Turner,

Please accept this as a letter of support for the Southern Tier Project on behalf of the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools. The housing crisis has a negative impact on our economy and infrastructure as well as our school system.

The Island Housing Trust and Affirmative Investments partnership was selected by the Town of Edgartown last November to develop and manage the project consisting of 36 affordable rentals and 4 community ownership homes. In the MVC's 2020 housing need assessment they concluded that the Island's socio-economic diversity is eroding at an alarming rate, due to the skyrocketing real estate market. The MVC report recommends an ambitious goal of producing 50 units of affordable and community housing annually. The Southern Tier project directly addresses this critical need by providing 100% affordable and community housing for year round families and residents.

As Superintendent of Schools, I can attest that teachers and other staff have either declined positions in our Island schools or resigned from their position because they can't find affordable housing that would allow them to either move to or remain on Martha's Vineyard.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Smith, ED.D.  
Superintendent of Schools