Dear Martha’s Vineyard Commission Members,

I write in opposition to the proposed modifications to the Harbor View Hotel. I see in this proposal the same incremental creep of commercial interests into R-5 residential areas that I see in the Hob Knob Inn expansion right next door to me on Upper Main Street in Edgartown. How fortunate it is that the Harbor View and the Hob Knob proposals are simultaneously on the MVC agenda on the same night (January 7, 2021). It will give the Commission a chance to see in full flower the strategies of commercial interests in slowly overwhelming the residential neighborhoods in which they have been given the privilege to operate under special permits. The damage they cause to the historic community and their neighbors is called “externalities” by economists (as in rivers being polluted by factories) and “collateral damage” by the military (as in when their bombs inadvertently blow up neighboring structures not intended as targets).

Please do not let such projects abuse the privileges they have been granted by granting ever-expanding incursions into our beautiful and peaceful historic residential neighborhoods.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William Fruhan