



TOWN OF AQUINNAH

Aquinnah Planning Board

955 State Road, Aquinnah, Massachusetts 02535
Tel. (508) 645-2300 - Fax (508) 645-7884
www.aquinnah-ma.gov

October 20, 2021

Dear Honorable Members of the Massachusetts House and Senate:

I write to you today at the direction of the Aquinnah Planning Board Plan Review Committee to ask for action to address the severity of Martha's Vineyard's housing crisis, its negative impact on our economy and infrastructure, and the need for significant, reliable long-term funding Island-wide to implement housing solutions.

The Aquinnah Planning Board Plan Review Committee supports the bills introduced in the MA Legislature this session which seek to establish Transfer Fees on real estate transactions over a certain amount to fund affordable, community, and attainable housing.

The Aquinnah Planning Board Plan Review Committee furthermore supports amendments to these bills to allow deed restriction up to 240% of Area Median Income, to address critical year-round workforce housing needs, as our median home price on the Island continues to climb past \$1.2 million.

5868: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/5868>

H1377: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1377>

H2895: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H2895>

The Aquinnah Planning Board Plan Review Committee respectfully requests that these bills be reported out of committee favorably. Please note the support of the Board Members of the Planning Board Plan Review Committee of our community.

The Aquinnah Planning Board Plan Review Committee also endorses the Coalition to Create the Martha's Vineyard Housing Bank (CCMVHB) <https://www.ccmvhb.org/>, which seeks to create an Island-wide housing bank, funded by a transfer fee, for the purpose of directly funding affordable, community, and attainable year-round housing efforts.

Sincerely,

Jo-Ann Eccher, Planning Board Member on behalf of the Aquinnah Planning Board Plan Review Committee