



## AQUINNAH WAMPANOAG TRIBAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

P. O. Box 479, Chilmark, MA 02535 Phone (508) 645-2711 Fax (508) 645-2992

July 28, 2023

Representative Mark Cusack  
Chairman, Committee on Revenue

Senator Susan Moran  
Chairwoman, Committee on Revenue

Dear Chairman Cusack and Chairwoman Moran:

I write to you today with the full support of the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribal Housing Authority, in support of the following bills:

- H. 3804 offered by Rep. Dylan Fernandes, "An Act establishing the Martha's Vineyard housing bank"
- S. 1782 offered by Sen. Julian Cyr, "An Act establishing the Martha's Vineyard housing bank"

We ask that you send these bills to the floor for consideration as soon as possible.

The Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribal Housing Authority supports HR 3804 and S 1782, as well as transfer fee enabling legislation, because these bills will provide a steady funding stream to finance affordable community and attainable year-round housing for everyone across the island, including Tribe members.

Many of our Wampanoag young people have been forced off island because of a lack of housing, which is more of an obstacle to life here than employment opportunities. Our Tribal elders struggle to remain in their homes due to taxes and energy costs. Funds from a Housing Bank could enable energy retrofits saving dollars and benefiting the environment. The Island community has come together and voted overwhelmingly in favor of this legislation. The Tribal Housing Authority joins our neighbors in asking for your passage of this crucial legislation.

Data compiled by our regional planning agency, the Martha's Vineyard Commission, *see* [https://www.mvcommission.org/sites/default/files/docs/State\\_of\\_Housing\\_MV\\_2023\\_05\\_revised.pdf](https://www.mvcommission.org/sites/default/files/docs/State_of_Housing_MV_2023_05_revised.pdf) vividly documents the critical shortage of affordable and attainable housing. That shortage has severe impacts across our island, including on our economy, education, health care, food security and public safety.

I respectfully request that you put these bills out favorably as soon as possible.

David Zimmerman  
Housing Administrator  
Aquinnah Wampanoag Housing Authority