

October 21, 2021

Dear Honorable Members of the Massachusetts House and Senate:

I write to you today 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. I support 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. I furthermore support 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.

S868: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S868>

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

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

I respectfully request that these bills be reported out of committee favorably. Please note my support.

Affordable housing island-wide has been on the decline over the past 20 years but only in the past 2 have we seen it accelerating at an unexpected and terrible rate. As a result, more and more members of our community are being displaced and made housing insecure without any viable solutions in place to correct the situation. We need to do everything we can to stem the loss of housing, our community and create more affordable housing opportunities on Martha's Vineyard and elsewhere.

I also endorse 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.

Respectfully,

Jim Feiner

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Chair, Chilmark Housing Committee