



# COUNTY OF DUKES COUNTY

## MARTHA'S VINEYARD & ELIZABETH ISLANDS

July 20, 2023

Representative Mark Cusack  
Chairman, Committee on Revenue  
Room 34, State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Susan Moran  
Chairwoman, Committee on Revenue  
Room 506, State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Cusack and Chairwoman Moran:

I write to you today, on behalf and with the full support of the County of Dukes County Commissioners, 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.

By unanimous vote, the County Commissioners support H. 3804 and S. 1782, as well as the transfer fee enabling legislation, because these bills will provide a steady funding stream to finance affordable community and attainable year-round housing across the island.

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.

The County has had direct experience with this issue as it took over 6 months to fill the critical position of County Treasurer as well as fill other requirements, in great part due to lack of housing availability.

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

Sincerely,

Martina Thornton  
County Manager