



TOWN OF EDGARTOWN  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

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**Chairman: Mark Hess**

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**Christina Brown, Maria Ventura, Christine White, Melissa Vincent, Jason Mazar-Kelly**

**September 29, 2021**

Dear Honorable Members of the Massachusetts House and Senate:

We 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. We 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>

We respectfully request that these bills be reported out of committee favorably. Please note our support.

The demographic trends indicate that we are losing young to middle aged cohorts, due to the affordable housing crisis on the island. The affordable housing problem is having a significant adverse impact on local services and businesses since we lack affordable year-round workforce housing. Stable and suitable housing for workers and their families cannot be responded to adequately without an infusion of financial capital. The Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee recognizes the importance of swift action now.

We 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,

The Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee

Mark Hess, Chairman