



January 27, 2022

State Senator John Keenan, Chair
Joint Committee on Housing
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, room 413-F
Boston, MA 02133

State Representative James Arciero, Chair
Joint Committee on Housing
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St, room 38
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable Members of the MA Legislature Joint Committee on Housing,

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 for regional agreements between towns, and for 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>

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

Importantly, **MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.** serves as the leading behavioral health and social service nonprofit organization for Martha's Vineyard. We rely on a workforce of approximately 125 staff to serve more than 2,000 Islanders each year. Deficits in affordable and attainable housing impact our capacity to deliver services to the Island's most vulnerable populations.

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. Please support our efforts by enabling the transfer fee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth Folcarelli'.

Elizabeth Folcarelli, Ph.D.
Martha's Vineyard Community Services, Inc.
111 Edgartown Road
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568