



October 18, 2021

Dear Honorable Members of the Massachusetts House and Senate:

I write to you today on behalf of the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center and the Board of Trustees.

We 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. We 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 the support of the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center, Vineyard Haven Ma.

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,

Robert W. Herman as President of the
Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center