



PLANNING BOARD
TOWN OF TISBURY
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October 22, 2021

Dear Honorable Members of the Massachusetts House and Senate:

The Tisbury Planning Board writes today in support of:

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

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

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

For many years the Town of Tisbury has been losing its affordable community housing base as a result of market pressures and increasing housing costs. Covid-19 has accelerated this very concerning trend to crisis levels. The affordability gap for housing in Tisbury is now up to \$635,000 for the average homebuyer, and will likely increase this year again. Housing is now so far out of reach that we have special legislation already allowing for a definition of “community housing” in the County of Dukes County for up to 150% AMI. We have been instituting innovative zoning methods to help encourage housing to meet the rapidly increasing needs of our community, but zoning alone will not get it done. We need a real and steady source of dedicated revenue to match the market forces that are forcing families to leave the only place they know of as home.

Thank you for your consideration of these bills. I respectfully ask that the committee report these bills favorably. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our Planning Board Administrator Pat Harris at pharris@tisbury.ma.gov with any questions.

The Planning Board also endorses 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,

Dawn Bellante Fflood

Chairman, Tisbury Planning Board