



Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard
PO Box 1236
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

March 19, 2022

CCMCHB

Laura Silber, Coordinator

Dear Ms. Silber,

I write to you today in support of the Coalition to Create the Martha's Vineyard Housing Bank. The Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard is dedicated to fostering community action to advance universal justice and equity. We know that access to safe, affordable housing is an equity issue and a real estate transfer fee would provide much-needed reliable funding to affordable housing efforts on the island. The housing crisis has exacerbated existing inequalities in our community, and we need more ways to address these issues.

Our congregation is currently in the search process to hire a minister to live on the island. The lack of affordable year-round housing has inhibited our ability to hire a new clergy leader. In addition, our members and their families have been negatively impacted by cost burdening and housing insecurity. We are dedicated to building and maintaining a strong, loving community on Martha's Vineyard, and that can only happen if our members can afford to live and work here.

Therefore, I speak for the Parish Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, on behalf of the members of our Society, endorsing the Coalition to Create the Martha's Vineyard Housing Bank. We recognize affordable housing is a critical need in all sectors of the island and applaud your efforts to address that need. We stand ready to help in any way we can from hosting a meeting in our Chapel to committee work.

Respectfully,

Rita Brown, President

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard.