



March 20, 2026

Kara Runsten, Director
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Letter of Support to Resilient Vineyard Haven Harbor

Dear Ms. Runsten,

I am writing to express Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard's support for Martha's Vineyard Commission's MVP Action Grant for Resilient Vineyard Haven Harbor.

This project addresses a regionally critical transportation corridor connecting Tisbury Port—the island's only year-round port—to Martha's Vineyard Hospital. The goal is to develop a resilience roadmap and strengthen regional decision-making capacity to ensure safe, reliable access while advancing long-term coastal resilience. The project site is particularly vulnerable to chronic flooding caused by inadequate stormwater drainage, compounded by exposure to nor'easters, sea level rise, and storm surge. This area serves as a vital lifeline for all island residents, supporting the delivery of food, medical supplies, and essential transportation. Every islander depends on this corridor. Coordinated island-wide planning and collaboration are critical.

Throughout the project period starting September 2026 to June 2028, Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard will support resilience planning, community outreach, and coastal advisory board as appropriate.

As an organization whose mission is to ensure we have the services and infrastructure necessary for Older Adults to age safely on our island, access to our core healthcare facility, Martha's Vineyard Hospital, is a critical issue. Over 1 in 3 year round islanders are 60+ and lack of access could be catastrophic to this population.

Resilient Vineyard Haven Harbor is an important step toward building the capacity, partnerships, and planning framework needed to strengthen resilience in other regionally critical areas across the island. We strongly support this application and respectfully encourage its favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Cindy Trish

Executive Director
Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard
ctrish@hamv.org

