

To: Martha's Vineyard Commission

From: Chilmark Board of Selectmen

Date: December 5, 2006

Re: Martha's Vineyard Hospital DRI

We are writing to record this Board of Selectmen's position on the proposal to rebuild the MV Hospital which is now before you as a Development of Regional Impact.

Without discussing the details of your deliberations, we wish to add our voice to those who point out that construction costs increase by the day and every extra condition adds cost. Every day of delay or additional condition increases the budget for the project. Should the current delay in approving the project or conditions result in the cost of the project exceeding projections, the project (as delayed or conditioned by the MVC) could reach the "tipping point" financially and be discontinued as improvident by the Hospital Board, which is a private entity without command over taxpayer funds. This would be a tragedy for the future of health care in our community.

The community which you serve, which includes many Chilmarkers, in a rare endorsement of an island wide project, has signified its approval of the Hospital plan by pledging 38 million dollars to construct it. We believe it should be approved promptly to avoid the risk of failure - a failure from which island health care has no means to recover.

Sincerely,

J. B. Riggs Parker
Chairman