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January 6th, 2016

Board of Selectman
Town of Chilmark
P.O. Box 119
Chilmark, MA 02535



Dear Honorable Board of Selectmen:

As part of Chilmark's million oyster initiative, I would like to offer my name for consideration in the next round of available oyster grants. I believe that oyster farming has proved itself to be more than a sustainable fishery, it is likely the key to maintaining the health of Chilmark's ponds for generations to come.

This last summer, I had the pleasure to work for Emmet Carroll on his grant site. During that time, I learned from his years of experience, developing my own knowledge in the process. I am well aware of the commitment, dedication and hard work that it takes to maintain a successful oyster farm.

I believe that I am an ideal candidate for selection in regards to one of the grant sites. Maintaining Menemsha as a working fishing village is very important to me. I spent ten years working for Betsey Larsen, in her fish market on the harbor. I also have experience on the water side of the industry, fishing commercially for scallops in Oak Bluffs before moving to Chilmark.

In order to guarantee the continued success of the oyster program in Chilmark, I believe that a balance will need to be reached between all of the pond stake holders. This includes abutting property owners. As part of this balance, an effort to maintain the esthetics of the pond is important. I have a certification in scuba and would be interested in exploring new grow out techniques that would benefit the pond as well as limit the impact caused by hundreds of buoys.

If chosen, I realize there is a long permitting phase, as well as the expense of building and maintaining grow out equipment. I believe that I am prepared to overcome both of these obstacles. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jesse Burton