



April 16, 2021

Chairman, Select Board Town of \_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Town, MA ZIP

RE: Letter of Support for the creation of a regional Martha's Vineyard Emergency Management Coordinator

Dear Mr./Ms \_\_\_\_\_,

We, the undersigned Emergency Managers and partners of the Martha's Vineyard Emergency Management Directors Association, are writing seeking your support of the funding of a regional Emergency Management Coordinator on Martha's Vineyard.

This Coordinator is needed to facilitate the island Emergency Managers' ability to develop and maintain our emergency plans, to apply for grants, to coordinate efforts by working groups, and leverage all our volunteers and island staff. We plan for this position to help avoid duplication of efforts on shared concerns, to keep projects moving forward, and to provide administrative support.

As an island we have improved our coordination of emergency management planning. We worked together to create a regional emergency sheltering agreement. This agreement was approved by all island towns. The island communities work well together and want to see more efficient regional coordination of our scarce resources.

The past 13 months have been the longest sustained State of Emergency that your Emergency Managers have needed to support. It was not the usual Hurricane, Blizzard, or single event. This ongoing event has brought together the best of all island communities, agencies and people. It has been a successful and rewarding process.

However, we have no assurance that this COVID-19 Pandemic will be ending soon. We are seeing tornado events. We have climate change and adaption. We need to provide an island Coordinator to help the Emergency Managers and their many partners maintain the momentum achieved during this past year.

The creation of this position will play an integral role in keeping our islands safe during times of crisis. It will allow us to plan and adapt best practices to ensure we are able to protect our island residents and visitors.

Working together will give us a greater voice and will anchor partnerships between the communities which will allow us to overcome larger obstacles and face the unknown of the future.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please contact us if we can provide you any additional information on this request.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex

Tim

Russ

Martina

Christina

Forrest

Erik