



# COUNTY OF DUKES COUNTY

## MARTHA'S VINEYARD & ELIZABETH ISLANDS

April 14, 2023

Via email to: [municipalitiescommittee@gmail.com](mailto:municipalitiescommittee@gmail.com)

Senate Chair Sen. Jacob Oliveira  
House Chair Rep. Carole Fiola  
Municipalities Committee

RE: S.1288 - An Act Authorizing the County Commissioners of Dukes County to appoint a treasurer who may not be a resident of the county filed by Sen. Julian Cyr

Dear Chair Oliveira and Chair Fiola,

On behalf of the Dukes County Commissioners, please accept this testimony relative to Senate bill 1288 titled: "An Act Authorizing the County Commissioners of the County of Dukes County to appoint a Treasurer who may not be a resident of the County". The Dukes County Commissioners unanimously approved filing of the attached legislation at their meeting on November 9, 2022.

The main reason for this legislation was an urgency to appoint a professional qualified Dukes County Treasurer for the remaining term until the next state elections. The county treasurer elected in the 2020 state elections resigned in July 2022. The Assistant Treasurer has been hired in June of 2022 (only weeks before the Treasurer resigned). The new employee was not qualified to step into the County Treasurer's role just weeks after she was hired as Assistant Treasurer. After some weeks of uncertainty, we were able to find an interim county treasurer who was willing to work part time with hopes to be released from his duties as soon as we find his replacement but no later than at the end of December 2022.

The County has been advertising for this position in local papers since July and has been announcing the need to fill the position at every meeting of the County Commissioners. It has also been reported in several newspaper articles that the County is in need of a new treasurer and still looking for candidates. The salary of \$100,000 per year was commensurate with other municipal treasury positions in Dukes County. All that said, we have not received any applications from qualified candidates residing on Martha's Vineyard or Elizabeth Islands. It was not until mid-March 2023 that we were able to attract a qualified candidate after some negotiations and persuasion. Having only a part-time treasurer for 7 months of the year put an enormous pressure on the rest of the county staff and is an unsustainable long-term solution which we would like to avoid should the current Treasurer resign.

By opening the appointed position to candidates residing outside of Dukes County we would be able to seek qualified candidates for this vital county position outside of Dukes County (island of Martha's Vineyard) and assure continuity of operations and professional level of fulfillment of all the county treasury duties.

Please feel free to reach out if you need anything further in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Christine Todd*

Christine Todd, Chair of County Commissioners



Martina Thornton, County manager