

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the non-profit Island Housing Trust, I am pleased to share with you our 2016 annual report. It details our progress in achieving our *Vision 2020* – to create 100 new permanently affordable homes for Island families and individuals by the end of 2020. Working together we can accomplish this ambitious goal of solving nearly half our island-wide housing needs within the next five years.

Our annual report also shares the story of Wendy Andrews who has arranged to bequeath her home in Tisbury to the Island Housing Trust. As a fourth generation Islander she understands how hard it is for people to afford to live and work here yearround, and she wants to do her part to help. Wendy is the newest member of the *Pinckney Legacy Circle* that helps community members make planned gifts to the Island Housing Trust.

Thanks to your support, last year we completed the construction of the six apartments in down-town Vineyard Haven on Water Street, pictured on the cover of our annual report. We are a third of the way to realizing our *Vision* 2020 with the creation of 31 permanently affordable homes, including 9 rental apartments at Scotts Grove in West Tisbury and 2 single family houses that we will be breaking ground on this fall.

Thank you for your continued support of the Island Housing Trust – together we are Building Homes & Preserving Community.

With gratitude,

Philippe Jordi

JUN - 2 2017

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



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CHARLES D. BAKER Governor KARYN E. POLITO Lt. Governor MATTHEW A. BEATON Secretary

JOHN LEBEAUX Commissioner

May 30, 2017

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

Spring greetings from the Department of Agricultural Resources! I understand that one or more members of your municipality attended the 2017 Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Meeting at the Hynes Convention Center earlier this year. During the trade show, MDAR staff connected with many municipal contacts and provided information on our programs as well as information on Specialty Crop farms in Massachusetts.

Enclosed is a brochure highlighting some of our programs that may be of interest to you; they are also listed more in detail at <u>www.Mass.gov/agr</u>. We have enclosed a "Massachusetts grown...and fresher" informational rack card which promotes the Department's consumer website, <u>www.Mass.gov/Massgrown</u>. The site features farms that are open to the public as well as farmers' markets, agricultural fairs, and more. We encourage municipalities to link to the Department website as a source to the public looking for information on local food and farms. Any questions regarding the website, contact Rick LeBlanc at <u>Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us</u>, 617-626-1759. Please share this information appropriately within your organization.

As an MMA member myself (Shrewsbury Selectman, former Princeton Town Administrator) I greatly appreciate all you do. I hope all is well in your community, and I wish you success and prosperity throughout 2017!

If you have any questions, feel free to call me 617-626-1733 or email me at John.Lebeaux@state.ma.us.

Sincerely,

John Lebeaux, Commissioner

