



TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

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Select Board

Emma Green-Beach, Chair
Dion Alley
Jason M. Balboni
Gail M. Barmakian
Thomas J. Hallahan, Sc. D.

Deborah Potter, C.G.A.
Town Administrator

August 2, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Warren
2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

Honorable Senator Warren,

The town of the Oak Bluffs Select Board voted at its meeting of July 25, 2023 to submit a letter regarding our support for the solicitation of federal funding to rebuild the Cape Cod Bridges as part of their support for our neighboring cape cod communities' efforts to modernizing their physical infrastructure. Our board recognizes the significance of these bridges not only for the communities on Cape Cod but also for our island, which heavily relies on them for our accessibility, stability, and ultimately, our survival.

As an island community, our needs are unique and often divergent from those of our neighboring Cape Cod communities. However, our dependency on the Cape Cod Bridges for the movement of people, goods, services, and supplies cannot be overstated. These two access points are the lifeline of our town, connecting us to the essential resources and opportunities we require for sustenance and prosperity.

The potential closure of the bridges, even for short periods, would have far-reaching consequences for our community. Economically, it could lead to reduced tourism, hindering visitors and tourists from reaching our island. Moreover, it may impact the ability of off-island workers to commute, jeopardizing the livelihood of many local businesses and families. Furthermore, delays resulting from bridge closures can lead to missed ferry reservations, causing financial stress for island families forced to find accommodations on the Cape.

The impact extends beyond the economic sphere, affecting the availability of vital goods, food supplies, medical resources, and building materials, which predominantly come over via the bridges to the ferry. The limited local resources make it unfeasible to provide for our year-round residents, let alone the influx of tourists during the peak season. Continued closures or unreliable bridges would impose substantial burdens on businesses attempting to serve our community, as they may have to source items from off-island, leading to increased expenses and logistical challenges for islanders.

We firmly believe that the replacement of these critical infrastructure assets is paramount to ensuring the continued prosperity of both the Cape and Islands. Tourism remains a vital pillar of our financial resources,



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and the bridges play a pivotal role in facilitating the supply chain access necessary for our survival. Equally important, they provide crucial transportation links that connect us with the rest of the world.

The failure to replace the Cape Cod bridges would put our very survival at risk, and we implore you to prioritize securing the necessary funding from all available avenues to commence this crucial project. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for your efforts in conveying these sentiments to the Federal Government and advocating for the recognition of the bridges' significance.

In conclusion, we sincerely thank you for your attention to this pressing matter and your unwavering dedication to collaborating with federal, state, and local partners. By working together, we can ensure the safe, secure, and reliable infrastructure that our community deserves and requires for its continued prosperity, well-being, and basic survival.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further information. We hope that future funding developments are favorable, and we look forward to the obtaining of the necessary resources required to secure the future of Cape Cod and the Islands and its residents, visitors, and workers.

Thank you once again for your support.

Respectfully,

Deborah Potter, C.G.A.
Town Administrator