That hits all of the points I would give.

Thank you,
Doug
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Cape Cod Commission
3225 Main Street
Barnstable, MA 02630

February 10, 2025

RE: Wilkens Lane Project

To the Subcommittee:

I am writing to express my support for the Wilkens Lane affordable and workforce housing project. As a retail business owner and a former member of the Bourne Planning Board, I am deeply concerned about a workforce that can serve businesses and service industries throughout Cape Cod.

It is particularly difficult finding workers on a seasonal basis. Though I manage a year-round patio business, the surge of activity for me comes in the spring and summer. Every year it becomes increasingly difficult to find people who can work because of the absence of affordable rental housing. Seven of eleven of my employees now live off Cape and commute to work, increasing traffic and congestion at the current bridges. Three of them had to move off Cape to afford housing.

There are many other reasons why we need housing for younger and lower income people and seasonal employees, such as the ability to provide health care service for an aging population, staff for restaurants, teachers, police and emergency medical employees, and so much more. The Wilkens Lane project will help provide some level of relief for this problem, though much, much more still needs to be done. In addition, this project is a private-sector initiative, and provides what the market often does not - smaller apartments for rent in a busy business area close to employers. This should be an easy choice.

Please approve this project and help all of us get the employees we need.

Yours truly,

Douglas Shearer
Chairman, Bourne Design Review Committee
Falmouth Town Meeting Member
West Falmouth, MA