

Dec 4, 2025

From

Neal Ahern, Bridge Road.

I apologize for not being there in person this evening. I am a commercial shellfisherman and the timing of tonight's tide requires me to be out on the flats during public comment. I hope all of you are much warmer than I am at the current moment.

Orleans is my hometown. I have been searching for affordable housing here for at least the last 2 decades. I understand the desperate current state of available year round housing because I live it every day.

While I support the CPC contributing funds to address our local year round housing needs here in Orleans as well as in our neighboring towns, I do not support transferring more taxpayer funds to Pennrose, which is a **private, for-profit corporation subsidized almost entirely by taxpayers.**

The behaviors and actions by current Pennrose employees during the Governor Prence RFP process, exemplified to this voter, an open disdain for the very voters and form of local government, Pennrose now requests **more money from.**

For a company claiming to address affordable and attainable housing needs with their "heart and soul", Pennrose's years' long participation, then sudden withdrawal, from the Governor Prence RFP process has directly led to a multi-year delay for affordable housing at that site, as well as increased construction costs due to this delay.

If anything, Pennrose should be paying Orleans back for the impact this unprecedented action in their company's history has had on the development of affordable housing in our town.

Considering we already annually subsidize Pennrose with our state and federal tax dollars, CPC funding should support local projects, not better returns on investment for Pennrose **and their investors.** **The notion Pennrose could or would not build these projects in Harwich and Chatham without our contribution is not true.**

What is true, according to Pennrose email correspondence with representatives of this town and other towns, is that Pennrose regularly requests their local allies to attend public meetings like this one, in case **any voices of opposition should speak.**

To deny Pennrose's requests for funds does not signify opposition to affordable housing, nor a lack of desire or intent to participate in regional solutions to our communities **housing needs.** It's simply saying to a multimillion dollar corporation, "you don't need any more of our financial help."

I encourage the CPC to vote against the 3 separate requests from Pennrose for \$100,000 each.

Please support our community, not a for profit corporation.

Thank you.