

Letter regarding plastic field

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To: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>; planningboard@oakbluffs.gov <planningboard@oakbluffs.gov>;

To the Martha's Vineyard Commission and Oak Bluffs Planning Board,

We, the undersigned, would like to express our concern regarding the proposed plastic field at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. As environmental advocates and climate activists, we understand that converting a natural grass field to a plastic one runs counter to our collective goals and sends the wrong message to our youth.

Now, more than ever, we understand that our planetary health depends on decisions large and small. We know we must break our addiction to the fossil fuel industry and instead invest in our soil to help it capture as much carbon as possible. We know we need to avoid the use of materials that further contribute to global warming and instead use plants to lower surface temperatures. We understand that to adapt to stronger and more frequent storms and wildfires, we must avoid materials incompatible with these events and instead take preventative measures. And we realize that we should avoid materials that add to our waste stream and instead embrace those that are regenerative.

We are also concerned about polluting the water on Martha's Vineyard due to this plastic field. Additionally, when plastic is heated it releases harmful chemicals in the air that are cancer causing. The health of your students and the citizens of this island are at stake!

We ask that you please send a clear message to our youth that their future is our priority and reject the installation of plastic playing fields on Martha's Vineyard.

Sincerely,
Casey Hayward