

Executive Director Adam Turner & Martha's Vineyard Commission Members,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed athletic facilities at the high school. I feel very strongly, along with my fellow coaches and student athletes, that this upgrade is long overdue. Quite frankly, how long it has taken the community to even get to this point in the approval process is disgraceful. As often times is the case with any type of forward progression on this island, archaic group think fueled by misinformation and fear mongering takes consideration over common sense, logic and science. It saddens me that a community like our's can turn a blind eye to the needs of our youth and then have the arrogance to denounce engineers, scientists, and elite academic institutions who have found these surfaces and facilities to be safe, environmentally conscious, and effective in cultivating premier athletes. Selective and biased pseudoscience veiled in goodwill and emotive language has been at the core of the stonewalling efforts impressively deployed over the last five years by those who are not willing to compromise on playing surfaces. Several options for compromise have been presented but to no avail, a sad display of behavior for our youth to witness. I am very understanding of the fact that groups on either side of this "debate" have their reasons, but when facts and data are ignored and replaced by hysteria and fear, it becomes the duty of any educated individual to say enough is enough! The facts are clear;

1. Our youth deserve better facilities. Certainly not ones deemed "condemned" by the state.
2. This project is already fully-funded by private donors and will not be a burden to tax payers.
3. The synthetic turf surface is fourth generation, comprised of recycled material, and will be recycled at the conclusion of it's lifespan.
4. The infill is NOT crumb rubber like the opposition wishes you to believe, in fact, it is biodegradable pine mulch from domestic trees grown organically and harvested sustainably.
5. The woven backing does NOT contain PFAS.
6. The proposed plan showcases an overwhelming compromise of numerous natural grass fields being supported by one synthetic turf surface. This will allow the several natural grass surfaces the "rest periods" required for proper maintenance.

This is a wonderful opportunity for The Martha's Vineyard Commission to embrace a progressive direction while enriching the lives of our student-athletes and community members on a grand scale. To continue delaying this project is to continue ignoring the needs of our youth. I implore you, with an objective mindset, to review the data and facts. The decision will become very clear. Please approve this incredible resource for our kids and island community.

Regards,



Ryan J. White
Soccer Coach, MVRHS
BOD Member, MV United Youth Soccer
Island Business Owner