

To the Martha's Vineyard Commission,

I am writing to express my opposition to the installation of a 2.5 acre synthetic turf infield at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, which is part of DRI 352-M2.

I am an Oak Bluffs resident, an advocate for the environment, and a scientist. At the heart of this decision is creating waste that will burden some other community. We already are shipping the waste of our daily lives off island. The thought of 2.5 acres worth of synthetic turf sitting in a pile awaiting the point in time when it can finally be recycled or being shipped to some poor community in another country where it will pollute the soil and water is unconscionable. While the company contracted for this installment may make guarantees about recycling or disposal, who will really follow the chain of custody of this large amount of waste? I doubt they can make any guarantees. With proper care and scheduling, a grass infield could be maintained and be a safer more sustainable choice.

Scientists are learning new ways that chemical components of plastics leach into watersheds or soils putting wildlife and people at risk each year. Let us not be a community that contributes to that problem. I ask you all to think of the next generations when you make your decision and choose to do no harm and ask for a grass infield.

Thank you for your time and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Luanne Johnson, PhD.
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557