

January 13 2021

To all whom it may concern,

I am a resident of West Tisbury and I do not wish to see the high school field covered in a known toxic plastic substance. These synthetic turf play areas are the subject of numerous studies, the findings of which all show the detrimental effects they cause to people and their environment. There are known health risks to users of the play area from the toxicity of the substance, sprains and other injuries associated with interaction with the actual surface, as well as heat stroke and burns from the excessive temperatures on the play surface (hotter than blacktop). Studies also clearly show the poisonous effects on the soil and water supply beneath, which should be a concern to everyone living on this island, not to mention, damage to wildlife and the environment. This artificial substance is going to have to be removed and replaced at a substantial cost in the not so distant future, some estimates place the life expectancy of these play areas at not more than 5 years. The toxic products beneath the fake grass as well as the fake grass itself are known to leach into and pollute the soil and water as well as to disperse in the air as they break down. There are no good reasons to cover a healthy field in plastic and shredded tires. Athletes have played on good old natural earth since they started playing games and they did just fine without plastic, so can we. The industry behind this toxic product is just another snake oil salesman who is trying to convince us to buy something we do not need so he can line his pockets at our expense. The health of our island, its water supply and those of us who live here is not something that should be jeopardised. I strongly urge you to vote against this and any other artificial turf project here on Martha's Vineyard.

Robert Chaunce