

Dear Mr. Foley

March 19, 2019

I am a year round resident living in Edgartown and I would like to formally submit this letter of support for the Vineyard Wind project which also includes the necessary transmission cables under the sea floor. I am a former energy executive from Ohio with 18 years of experience in the electric industry. What I have found in my years of experience is that there will always be a group, a person, an environmentalist who will oppose any type of electric generation along with the siting, construction, and maintenance of that generating facility. I have encountered the organizations that support closing down coal and nuclear plants regardless of the MW output or economic impact to the surrounding community. On the flip side of that very same coin, I've heard the public testimony of the organizations that oppose a wind farm, a gas fired plant or a hydro facility due to the location, impact to an endangered snake or volume of structures needed, etc. So what's the answer? You can import "dirty" energy from different areas so that it's not in your backyard but then guess what will happen...large transmission lines will need to be built, in your backyard. My point is that regardless of what method of generation or delivery of that generation, someone is going to have a problem with it. The ironic part about it all, really is that these same individuals also expect the light to come on every time they turn the switch, the phone charger to light up, the television and computer to boot up when prompted AND the environment to remain clean while costing next to nothing. It's not feasible or logical. Energy is complicated but a very necessary resource to our everyday lives and businesses. The reality is that regardless of what is built or decommissioned, there is an impact. Economically, environmentally, socially and financially. The goal is to make sound, informed decisions with the least amount of harmful impact to all of those impacted. I fully understand that some of what I'm stating does not pertain to the issue of the cable at hand but I share it to help expand the thought process on the complexity of this issue and the reality that the alternatives are likely not what anyone wants either.

The transmission cable for this project is no different than what delivers energy to the island as we speak. As years pass and other projects have been developed, engineers and experts have fine tuned the factors considered in projects of this nature. We have the experience and challenges of other projects to continuously improve what comes next. When I arrived on the island, I found myself fascinated by the possibility of this project and impressed by the depth of research, collaboration and outreach that Vineyard Power and Vineyard Wind have conducted with all key stakeholders. They have left no stone unturned.

I fully support this project and urge the Commission to consider the big picture of the long term economic and environmental benefits associated with proceeding with this project.

Respectfully,
Dana Heffner
Edgartown, MA