

March 19, 2019

Martha's Vineyard Commission
Attn: Paul Foley

Dear Mr. Foley,

On behalf of myself and my family I would like to express my full support for all aspects of the Vineyard Wind Connector including their proposed undersea cable that will traverse through Edgartown's waters on its way to landfall in Barnstable.

It's time we all think of our future generations and what they are left with if we don't act now. I have an 18 month old son and another baby on the way and I can't help but think of how they will be affected if we choose to dismiss this amazing opportunity. The benefits of this project far outweigh its possible temporary and localized disturbances and a failure to approve this project would have far more devastating and long-lasting negative impacts on the region, by perpetuating the reliance on fossil fuels to meet our growing energy needs. These impacts include ocean sea level rise, ocean acidification, coastal zone erosion, and exposure to increasing storm strength and frequency. As a coastal community, Martha's Vineyard is particularly vulnerable to Climate Disruption and Ocean Acidification.

After looking into the project description I feel very strongly that Vineyard Wind is taking all the precautions and safety measures to make sure the disturbance of the area is minimal.

- VW will bury the cables using modern technology that will minimize the impacts on the benthic environment.
- Cable to be buried to a minimum depth of 5 feet to avoid "hangs" that could affect commercial fishermen.
- Long term cable monitoring program
- Will ensure that all marine debris will be cleared prior to cable installation.
- Vineyard Wind worked with state, federal agencies and stakeholders to avoid and minimize impacts on local fisheries through specific cable laying time of year restrictions.
- Cables will be indicated on future navigational charts much like the 4 cables that already connect our island to the mainland. There are two cables that connect Nantucket to Cape Cod.
- Solid cable that does not contain any fluid.

The project's 800 MW of renewable electricity will reduce CO2 emissions from the grid by approximately 1.68 million tons/year, which is the equivalent of removing 325,000 vehicles off the road. This project is a giant leap in meeting our Commonwealth's renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals. and will deliver power where it's needed most, at the end of the electrical grid on Cape Cod, thereby improving resiliency and greening our grid. It will also help to establish southern New England as the focus of a new industry and supply chain that will greatly benefit the local economy.

Sincerely,

Nicoleta Trandafir
Year-round resident of Vineyard Haven