

From: [Tom Soldini](#)
To: [Paul Foley](#)
Cc: [Lucy Morrison](#)
Subject: DRI#688 Vineyard Wind Transmission Cable
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 10:57:13 AM

Dear Mr. Foley,

Please include the following as part of the public record for DRI #688 - Vineyard Wind Transmission Cable.

I am a year-round resident of Edgartown, and I would like to make a few points expressing my strong support of the Vineyard Wind Transmission Cable project.

First, a word of thanks to the Martha's Vineyard Commission. Around 10 years ago, the Commission released the Island Plan - a truly visionary document. In its section on energy, you laid out steps to move the Vineyard toward a sustainable, carbon-free energy footprint. One of the main pillars of that plan was a vision that all of the Island's electrical need could be sourced from a wind farm off our shores. That was an audacious idea 10 years ago. But here we are today, with concrete, feasible proposal to do just that and much more. The citizens of the Vineyard should be very proud of the bold stake that the Commission put in the ground.

The Vineyard Wind project is more than a fulfillment of the Island Plan. At 800 MW of clean energy, it will supply 6% of the electricity demand for the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts, enough energy to power more than 400,000 homes. There are very few actions we can take as a community, that will have such a dramatic impact, so quickly, in the effort to alleviate climate change.

I would like to directly address the scope of the Commission's review – the undersea cable known as the Vineyard Wind Transmission Cable. While offshore wind may be a new energy source for the US, it has been well developed in other parts of the world. In Europe, there are more than 100 offshore wind farms in operation today, with between 4,000-5,000 turbines delivering clean energy every day. The technology for connecting all these turbines to the grid is well-established, safe, and minimally disruptive. Vineyard Wind's parent companies bring direct, extensive experience in designing and installing undersea cables from their histories in developing some of those European wind farms.

In Denmark, a country similar to Massachusetts in population and energy demand, 40% of electric power is sourced from the wind. There is no reason why we cannot do the same. We have an incredible opportunity to make a difference for the planet, but time is not on our side. I urge the Commission to once again act boldly, and decisively and approve the Vineyard Wind Transmission Cable.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Soldini
Edgartown, MA