Dear Martha’s Vineyard Commission:

This letter is to express the unqualified support of the Edgartown Climate Committee for the current proposal for the Park City Wind New England 1 Connector (the “Project”) to be discussed at your meeting on July 14, 2022.

In 2021 the Town of Edgartown joined all other island towns by voting to adopt the goal of achieving 100% renewable electricity by 2040 and to reduce fossil fuel use by 100% by 2040.

The Project is a crucial step in the achievement of these voter approved goals.

The voter approved goals cannot be achieved without large offshore wind projects, and the Project is an integral and necessary part of one of those offshore wind projects.

The Project is very similar to the previously approved Vineyard Wind 1 Connector. The Vineyard Wind 1 Connector approval process was exhaustive, including many stakeholders, an extensive environmental impact statement, and lengthy review by the EPA and the Board of Ocean Energy Management. The Project will use very similar installation and burial methods and be placed within the same corridor between Chappaquiddick and Nantucket. This should mean that the approval process for the Project can be relatively easy.

The offshore renewable wind energy generated by the Park City Wind project will be transmitted to the grid by means of the Project. This power will replace the burning of fossil fuels for electric power generation. This will reduce greenhouse gas release, reducing climate change.

As you know, climate change is resulting in various threats to our island. Sea level is rising, and the strength and frequency of wind and rain storms are increasing. Beaches and bluffs will erode and move inland. Our island will become hotter and experience longer droughts, affecting vulnerable islanders and exposing all to fire danger. Ocean acidification and loss of salt marsh fish nurseries will affect the livelihood of our marine industry.

While adaptation can lessen these effects, we need to reduce climate change at its source by doing everything we can to cut the release of greenhouse gases. By permitting the undersea electrical connectors needed for offshore wind development, we can have a positive impact many times larger than our own Island’s direct efforts at renewable electrification and reduction of fossil fuel burning.

Other benefits include the reduction of air pollution from fuel burning, which will improve the health of our citizens and save lives, and the reduction of water and land pollution from hydrocarbon leaks and coal and other waste disposal.
As Edgartown and the five other towns on Martha’s Vineyard convert to electricity for heating and cooling, transportation, and landscaping machinery, the Vineyard will be quieter and more efficient in its use of energy.

Our island must rely on offshore wind to meet our energy and environmental goals. The Project is a crucial piece of offshore wind infrastructure. We need to avoid delay that keeps us burning fossil fuels and releasing carbon dioxide for additional years by approving the Project now.

Thank you,

Julia Livingston
Chair of the Edgartown Climate Committee