

Objection to the Proposed Plastic Fields at the High School

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To: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>; planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov <planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov>;

Cc: First Congregational Church of West Tisbury <wtiscong@comcast.net>; thefieldfund@gmail.com <thefieldfund@gmail.com>;

To the Martha's Vineyard Commission and Oak Bluffs Planning Board,

The Green Team of the First Congregational Church of West Tisbury is committed to the care of our island environment and considers it a moral issue. The Green Team brought the proposal for installation of plastic fields to the Church Council on July 7, 2020. At that meeting, the Council voted, by unanimous consent, to endorse the following letter. Please add our organization's name and letter to your public list.

Dear members of the Martha's Vineyard Commission and the Oak Bluffs Planning Board,

We would like to express our concern regarding the proposed plastic field at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. As environmental advocates and climate activists, we understand that converting a natural grass field to a plastic one runs counter to our collective goals and sends the wrong message to our youth.

Now, more than ever, we understand that our planetary health depends on decisions large and small. We know we must break our addiction to the fossil fuel industry and instead invest in our soil to help it capture as much carbon as possible. We know we need to avoid the use of materials that further contribute to global warming and instead use plants to lower surface temperatures. We understand that to adapt to stronger and more frequent storms and wildfires, we must avoid materials incompatible with these events and instead take preventative measures. And we realize that we should avoid materials that add to our waste stream and instead embrace those that are regenerative.

We ask that you please send a clear message to our youth that their future is our priority and reject the installation of plastic playing fields on Martha's Vineyard.

Sincerely,

Jana Bertkau, Chair of Council

First Congregational Church of West Tisbury

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