

Oak Bluffs Planning Board & MV Commission Review of the MVRHS Athletic Field Project

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

Importance: High

To the Members of the Oak Bluffs Planning Board & Martha's Vineyard Commission,

I have been an Oak Bluffs homeowner for over 40-years and am blessed to raise a daughter here who attended its school and graduated from the MVRHS. My daughter was active in several sports and spent many hours on the current sports field. The sound scientific information available should be sufficient, incontrovertible evidence to rule against approval of the indelible toxicity of the proposed area's elements. I would not allow my daughter to play on such a field, and I cannot believe that any responsible parents would consciously do so today.

Thus, I want to express my concern regarding Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's proposed plastic field. As an environmental and climate advocate, I understand that converting a natural grass field to a plastic one runs counter to the environmental and climate protection community's collective goals and sends the wrong message to today's 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 using materials that further contribute to global warming and instead use plants to lower surface temperatures. We understand that to adapt to more potent and more frequent storms and wildfires, we must avoid materials incompatible with these events instead of taking preventative measures. And we realize that we should avoid materials that add to our waste stream and instead embrace those that are regenerative.

I join in imploring that you send a clear message to our youth that their future is your agency priority as oversight Stewards in this matter and reject the installation of plastic playing fields at the MVRHS especially, and on Martha's Vineyard unequivocally.

Respectfully,

Joseph Carter