

Martha's Vineyard Commission  
P.O. Box 1447  
Oak Bluffs, Ma. 02575

August 4, 2022

Re: Vineyard Wind Hangar

Dear Commissioners:

I am the Airport Director at the Martha's Vineyard Airport, and write regarding Vineyard Wind's proposal to replace an 8500 square foot hangar, originally built in 1973, with a 9000 square foot hangar to be used for a single helicopter, bathrooms and storage space.

The Airport respects the important role of the Martha's Vineyard Commission in planning and development on the Island. At the hearing on July 21, Commissioners raised concerns regarding the flight tracks and the noise generated by the helicopter which would be housed at the new hangar. These are areas within the exclusive control of the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA"). As the FAA's Airport Compliance Manual recites, "[t]he federal government has preempted the areas of airspace use and management, air traffic control, safety, and the regulation of aircraft noise at its source." FAA Airport Compliance Manual, Order 5190.6B, at 13.2(a)(1). The FAA does recognize local government's ability to protect their citizens through land use controls, as long as those local measures do not affect "airspace management or aircraft operations." *Id.*

There may be issues regarding the development of the Vineyard Wind hangar property that are properly subject to review by the Martha's Vineyard Commission. But the Commission should not, and cannot under federal law, use its concerns about flight tracks and aircraft noise to interfere with the development of this hangar. Nor would it be appropriate to condition approval of the hangar on restrictions on helicopter flight tracks or flight schedules. These are areas within the sole jurisdiction of the federal government, and any such conditions imposed in connection with review of the Vineyard Wind hangar would be preempted by the exclusive federal role in this area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

  
Geoffrey R. Freeman  
Airport Director

Cc: Bob Rosenbaum, Chair MVAC  
Jorge Panteli, FAA