

*Town of Oak Bluffs
Conservation Commission
PO Box 1327
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
508-693-3554 x118
edurkee@oakbluffsma.gov*

September 21, 2016

Mr. Paul Foley
DRI Coordinator
Martha's Vineyard Commission
PO Box 1447
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

RE: OB Water District proposed solar array

Dear Mr. Foley:

With regard to the Oak Bluffs Water District's proposal to clear forest land to build a solar array, the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission voted to concur with the opinions of forest experts David Foster, director, Harvard Forest, and Tim Boland, executive director, Polly Hill Arboretum.

The Commission does not support the clearing of an old growth forest for a solar array. Forests provide many valuable environmental functions, as outlined by Mr. Foster and Mr. Boland.

And, to quote Mr. Foster, "the proposition to destroy forests, which are one of nature's most efficient solar collectors, with a manufactured solar collector is counterintuitive and counterproductive."

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Liz Durkee
Conservation agent