



# Martha's Vineyard Commission

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Jim Bennett  
Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
45600 Woodland Road, VAM-OREP  
Sterling, Virginia 20166

Dear Mr. Bennett,

The Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) would like to thank the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for the opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Environmental Impact statement (SEIS) to assess the impacts of offshore wind developments along the East Coast. The MVC urges BOEM to approve the SEIS as drafted, as it further ensures the co-existence of the emerging offshore wind industry, maritime stakeholders, and the natural environment on which we depend.

The MVC is the Regional Planning Agency for Dukes County, MA, which includes the six towns on Martha's Vineyard, and the town of Gosnold which comprises the Elizabeth Islands. Chapter 831 of the Acts of 1977 empowers the Commission to conduct regulatory activities aimed at preserving the natural, historical, ecological, scientific, and cultural values of the Island, by protecting those values from harmful development and promoting the enhancement of sound local economies. The Commission also works with the towns on both short- and long-term planning in regard to economic development, the environment, land use and other areas of focus.

In response to the growing impacts of climate change, the MVC in 2019 adopted a Climate Crisis Resolution that formalizes our support for eliminating fossil fuel use on the Vineyard by 2040, along with developing policies that further incorporate the effects of climate change into our planning and regulatory activities, and drafting master plans for mitigating and adapting to the effects climate change in the coming years. Without the rapid development of offshore wind in Massachusetts, the Commission's energy-reduction goals will remain well out of reach, and climate change will continue to disrupt our economy, culture, and environment at an increasing rate.

The Commission is aware of the 2015 Community Benefit Agreement between Vineyard Wind and the Island's non-profit Vineyard Power Cooperative pursuant to which the parties regularly consult, with input from members of the Island community, to identify opportunities to benefit Island residents. We understand such benefits to include Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems (reducing the amount of light visible on our shores); sighting an operations and maintenance facility, which includes investment in the Tisbury Working Waterfront and the creation of up to 40 year round well paid jobs; providing

funding for job training; and direct funding from the Vineyard Wind Affordability and Resiliency Program, which will enable the development of local renewable energy projects to improve energy security, resiliency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and affordability for Island residents. The Commission broadly supports these initiatives.

To summarize, the MVC strongly supports the SEIS as a further example of the careful review Vineyard Wind and other projects have undergone in recent years. We urge BOEM to approve the SEIS this year so that the many benefits of Vineyard Wind and other offshore wind projects may be realized.

Sincerely,

Doug Sederholm  
Chairman, MVC