

Oppose the Artificial Turf at MVRHS

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To: Oak Bluffs Planning Board <planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov>

Dear Oak Bluffs Planning Board,

Please oppose installing Artificial Turf at the MV Regional High School and support grass fields.

There are many reasons to oppose plastic fields at the high school, including a number of environmental reasons:

1. Non recyclable: When it comes time to replace the fields, there will be acres of non recyclable plastic.

In 2019 I worked with the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury DPW's/LDO's and the MVRD on an island wide LDO recycling signage project, and I learned about the problems of recycling plastic. The artificial turf is not recyclable and would not only be very expensive to send off island for disposal when it needs to be replaced in 8-10 years, but it equals plastic pollution.

2. Watershed and Wellheads: The Plastic grass would get installed and maintained in an area that is in both the Lagoon and Sengekontacket watersheds, and is part of a Zone II Wellhead Protection Area. Micro plastics shedding from the fields would end up in our island waters and wells. More Plastic Pollution.

3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions – not only are greenhouse gases emitted as the plastic field is produced, they continue to be released while they are in use and as they degrade.

For the health of our environment and residents on Martha's Vineyard, we should reduce our use of plastic, not increase it.

Please oppose the Artificial Turf at the High School and support grass fields.

Thank you,

Jennifer Blum

Island Resident and Registered Voter