

DRI 352 M4 2020 : MVRHS Athletic Fields, Oak Bluffs

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To: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>; Adam Turner <turner@mvcommission.org>

Cc: Oak Bluffs Planning Board <planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov>; The Field Fund <thefieldfund@gmail.com>

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Martha's Vineyard Commissioners

Martha's Vineyard Commission PO Box 1447

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January 13, 2021

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you to express my opposition to the use of synthetic materials (artificial turf) for the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's playing field. Regarding our environment, we are living at the most important time. The climate is under assault and every decision we make today must be calibrated to protect the environment.

In 1967, "One word: plastics." may have been both funny and prescient in "The Graduate," but now, it is a word of dire warning. Everything we do now, every way we decide to live our lives will either degrade our environment or restore it. This is no time to allow a synthetic rug — born of pollution and which, in a very short time, will die as a perpetual pollutant in some distant landfill — to cover our sole aquifer. You must decide to protect the future of our local aquifer and the future of the earth's environment.

Since the dawn of public education in the 19th century communities both large and small have been able to afford grass athletic fields. Why can't we afford it now? What is so dramatically different? Do not be seduced by short term arguments. We taxpayers can bear the cost of a natural grass field.

Sincerely,

Brian Hughes