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February 9, 2017

Bill White
Mass Clean Energy Center
63 Franklin Street
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Boston, Ma 02110

Dear Bill,

At a recent hearing held in Vineyard Haven by the Division of Marine Fisheries two of our lobstermen raised a very good point concerning the construction of the wind farms south of Martha's Vineyard. They are worried that when the thousands of feet of cables are jetted into the bottom to a depth of six feet that will raise a huge cloud of silt. This cloud of silt and bottom debris will drift through the water column and then settle and coat the bottom. This will disturb the benthic environment over a very large area and damage the area for lobster fishing. This damage will not be short lived and will impair the lobster and shellfish habitat for years into the future.

Up to this time most of the concerns of the fishing community have focused on access issues. Will the area of the wind turbines be open to lobster pots and other fixed gear fishing equipment? We have all assumed that the answer to this question is yes. But what about the benthic environment? How much damage will be done to our lobster fishery?

The area that has been leased for new windfarms is significantly off the Southern coast of Martha's Vineyard and will have only minimum impacts on life on our island. But our small boat, owner operated lobster fishery uses this area as their "Back yard". Almost all of our lobstermen fish in the federal waters south of the island. If this habitat is significantly marred by the construction techniques used to erect wind turbines our lobster fishery will be destroyed.

Has the planning process for our new wind farms addressed this issue? What measures can be taken to prevent habitat damage from the silt created during construction?

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren M. Doty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

Warren M. Doty
Selectmen