

P.O. Box 499
Chilmark, MA 02535
August 21, 2021

Select Board of Chilmark
Town Hall
Chilmark, MA 02535

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing to express my serious concern about a proposed agenda item for your August 24th meeting under which the Select Board would agree to provide a letter of endorsement for the application of Vineyard Wind for a guaranteed power purchase commitment that is the subject of a state competitive bid process.

This request is brought forward by Vineyard Power, apparently acting as a paid lobbyist or public relations advisor to Vineyard Wind. I would remind the Board that "Vineyard" Wind is a wholly private venture jointly owned by the Spanish utility conglomerate Iberdrola and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, a Danish investment fund. While Vineyard Power is organized as a non-profit cooperative, it would appear that its staff have a significant institutional financial interest in advancing the interests of the European owners of Vineyard Wind. There is not sufficient transparency in the materials I could find to determine how much of the budget of Vineyard Power is supported directly or indirectly by Vineyard Wind. However, Vineyard Power is obviously deeply linked to Vineyard Wind and in no way an independent or objective party.

The state procurement process is highly competitive and will be worth billions of dollars to the winning group. I do not understand the logic of the Town of Chilmark lending its support to one bidder without any information or effort to engage with other participants or give them an equal opportunity to make a presentation. The Town is conveying something of material economic value through its letter of endorsement. Allowing one bidder to short-circuit any sort of process seems quite inappropriate. The appearance of impropriety is made worse by the fact that the proposed endorsement letter has been written by a directly interested party.

I would also ask whether this is a matter that should have broader involvement from residents and voters before the members of the Select Board put the Town on record as endorsing a particular bidder.

I should note that I have absolutely no personal connection or stake in any of the other potential bidders and am raising this issue solely as a resident and voter in the Town who is disturbed by the process.

Frederick N. Khedouri