



TOWN OF HARWICH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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June 9, 2021

Jordon Velozo
Regulatory Planner
Cape Cod Commission
3225 Main Street
PO Box 226
Barnstable, MA 02630

Dear Ms. Velozo,

I am writing to express my support for the Town of Bourne's proposed Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility landfill expansion project. The Town of Bourne has assisted the Town of Harwich with many solid waste challenges over the years and is a valuable asset to the region. A prime example of this was the summer of 2019 when the Town's MSW vendor failed to honor its contract and cut our volume in half. With no other disposal outlets available, the Town requested Bourne's assistance and was granted one MSW trailer per day through that entire summer. Had it not been for the Town of Bourne's generosity, we would have been forced to turn away residents and contractors without being able to advise them where to take their MSW.

As you know, Massachusetts landfills have closed and there is not enough existing capacity to absorb the MSW generated in the State. This has caused several vendors to devise operations that move MSW out of State. It is only a matter of time before these destinations stop taking out of State trash and reserve it for their own communities. Bourne's ISWMF expansion project would provide valuable MSW space for the region for years to come.

I have been in the solid waste industry for 30+ years and the events that took place in May of 2019 took me by complete surprise. That is, it was not a matter of how much the MSW disposal rate would be, but a matter of finding anyone with excess capacity that could take it. Those events caused Harwich to execute two separate MSW contracts with vendors to hedge our bets. Without a local option like Bourne's ISWMF, I fear it is only a matter of time before the summer of 2019 repeats itself.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important project. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Hooper, Director