June 5, 2017

Angie Grant, Administrator
Vineyard Transit Authority
11 A Street, Airport Business Park
Edgartown, MA 02539

Subject: Martha’s Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) energy storage project is a good fit for the ACES Program

Dear Angie,

The Massachusetts Chapter of Sierra Club is excited to support the comprehensive project being undertaken by Martha’s Vineyard Transit Agency (VTA) to move from diesel to a completely electric vehicle fleet. VTA’s planned use of battery storage in combination with solar energy to support the electrification of their bus fleet, makes this project a good fit for additional funding through DOER’s Advancing Commonwealth Energy Storage (ACES) Program. Battery storage will not only help during emergencies like power outages, and storms; it will also allow VTA to avoid premium pricing during times of peak demand.

In addition, we are also encouraged by VTA’s application for the Federal Transit Administration’s Lo-No grant to fund the incremental cost of purchasing four electric buses. VTA’s commitment to a fully zero emission vehicle fleet will improve public health and create local jobs. As a popular vacation destination visited by thousands of people annually, an electric bus fleet will allow residents and visitors to enjoy a clean, quieter ride while significantly lowering fueling and maintenance costs for VTA.

This project will not only advance the deployment of electric buses in the state, it will also showcase and grow the state’s energy storage economy.

Sincerely,

Emily Norton
Chapter Director