

It's a vision thing

By **STEPHEN PECKHAM**

Some might say "ironic." Others, perhaps "isn't this interesting?" In your Jan. 26 editorial headlined "Too much hot air?" you seem to endorse that DuPont and nine other corporations are "calling for a nationwide cap on carbon dioxide emissions." And you chastise President Bush for his lack of, er ... vision?

One might also conclude that you endorse Gov. Deval Patrick's commitment to reduce emissions in Massachusetts by 10 percent by 2019 by way of his endorsement of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

I am curious, however, why for the past five years or so your paper editorially has supported and even apparently endorsed the misleading tactics, red herrings and occasional outright lies of what I "affectionately" call the "Dalliance" (the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound).

Lately the paper seems to be jumping on the bandwagon with thoughtful environmentalists, scientists, politicians, etc., making it clear that if we don't start right now to address the already deadly serious consequences of greenhouse gases we pollute our planet with, we and future

generations will pay dearly. What might life might be like in 25 to 50 years if we are not prudent now?

That being said, I applaud the Times for what appears to be a thoughtful and responsible refinement of fair and balanced reporting.

The well-funded, highly paid professionals managing the Alliance's lobbyists, marketing and propaganda machine - now desperate to rebrand themselves ("Soundkeepers") - suggest they want to "protect" all the bodies of water around Nantucket Sound. They pilot their little showboat and putt-putt along our waterways waving the banner "We're here to protect the Sound." All the while they hand out pamphlets and propaganda saying "let's kill the wind project before it kills us."

Cape Wind's project has endured more than five years

of intensive government review and public scrutiny - a review not for a poisonous mercury- and CO₂-belching fossil-fuel facility or even a nuclear power plant,

but for a totally nonpolluting, environmentally sound and safe greenhouse gas-reducing facility that will generate electricity for our needs.

The same billionaires (Bill Koch, et al.) and millionaires who oppose Cape Wind are predominantly residents of the Three Bays area,

which a Jan. 26 story portrayed as in desperate need of saving and protecting - at a cost of many millions to sewer the surrounding homes. Desperately this group pours gazillions of dollars into the Alliance, doing all they can disparage a project that will actually help clean up the same Sound they offer as "pristine." All the while they vehemently deny and obfuscate their true objective

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- saving the(ir) view.

Yes, without the needed sewers, they have no alternative but to continue to dump their affluent effluent in the very same waters in which they regularly fish, frolic, sail and swim.

I say, if they can afford to buck this historic project to the extent they have, illegitimately delay its construction for so many years to the provable detriment of the community at large, then, as far as I am concerned, it makes much more sense for these folks to do the socially respectable, environmentally responsible thing and spend their own money to clean up their own backyard. After all, aren't they "Soundkeepers"?

The rest of us year-round residents who want cleaner air, water and an environment we can all enjoy and benefit from worry about our viewpoint, about what's the best way to protect our Nantucket Sound and the health of our children and of future generations who might look out at the wind farm and say, "Hey, nice - view!"

A visionary concept.

Stephen Peckham lives in Centerville.