

# Bill targets wind farm

■ A clause in the Coast Guard measure would ban any such project on Nantucket Sound without the governor's approval.

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As key federal lawmakers negotiate the final details of an \$8.7 billion Coast Guard bill, a single controversial provision has taken even sharper aim at Cape Wind.

Evolving language introduced to a closed-door conference committee would now ban any wind farm on Nantucket Sound without the governor's approval. That project could be a tough sell in the Bay State, where Gov. Mitt Romney staunchly opposes the Cape Wind proposal, as do most of the gubernatorial candidates.

The latest version of the provision, floated by U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, would not preclude the siting of wind farms anywhere else in the United States.

Members of the full con-



**Ted Stevens**  
*Proposal by  
Republican  
senator  
from Alaska  
mentions only  
Nantucket  
Sound  
projects.*

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# Wind farm: Bill gives governor veto

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ference committee did not vote on the provision yesterday. Sources say as many as three of the seven Senate conferees are concerned with the language.

Cape Wind yesterday blasted the closed-door negotiations as the "poster-child" for government reform and urged supporters to contact the conferees directly.

"Who would invest money trying to develop an offshore renewable energy project if they see a company work five years ... only to have the rules dramatically change at the 11th hour?" asked Mark Rodgers, a Cape Wind spokesman.

Cape Wind Associates so far has spent about \$20 million pushing the offshore project, company President Jim Gordon said this week.

If approved, the Cape Wind project would include 130 turbines on Nantucket Sound and be the nation's first offshore wind farm. While supporters say it is an opportunity to provide clean energy on a large scale, opponents say Nantucket Sound is the wrong place for towering turbines.

Among those opponents is Romney. He wouldn't comment on the federal legislation yesterday, but a spokeswoman reaffirmed the governor's opposition to the wind farm proposal.

"The governor's not a fan of Cape Wind," said Corbie Kiernan, a Romney spokeswoman. "He's for wind power, just not on Nantucket Sound."

The Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, the organization fighting the wind farm proposal, has taken credit for influencing federal legislation that would hamstring the project because of navigation concerns.

While U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., is not a member of the conference, he urged colleagues this week to allow the Cape Wind review to follow its course without the added hurdle being debated in Washington.

U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, a member of the conference committee, did not return

calls for a comment yesterday.

A spokeswoman for Stevens, the Alaska Republican, would not say anything until the conference report was finalized. "I can't comment on any conference negotiations," said Melanie Alvord in Stevens's office.

Steve Hansen, a spokesman for U.S. Rep. Don Young, the Alaska Republican who has supported broader language banning turbines within 1½ miles of shipping lanes, did not return calls.

U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., who is not on the conference but opposes Cape Wind, had not seen a copy of the proposed Coast Guard amendment and was unavailable for comment yesterday, spokeswoman Melissa Wagoner said.

Meanwhile, members of the Cape-based citizen group Clean Power Now, an advocate for the wind farm, urged supporters to call Washington.

"We've certainly managed to make our case heard," said Matt

Palmer, the group's executive director. "Exactly what degree of impact that has in the face of lots of money, lots of lobbyists and lots of back-room dealing, that remains to be seen."

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## **Amendment excerpts**

- An offshore wind energy facility may not be constructed in the area commonly known as Nantucket Sound unless the construction of such facility is approved by the Commandant of the Coast Guard.
- The Commandant may not approve construction of the facility if, within 90 days of receiving a plan: (A) the Governor of an adjacent State makes a written determination to the Commandant that the Governor opposes the site chosen for the facility; or (B) the Commandant determines the facility creates a hazard to navigation.
- "Adjacent coastal State" is any coastal State that (A) would be directly connected by a cable to a proposed wind energy facility, or (B) would be located within 15 miles of any such proposed wind energy facility.