

Veto plan worries wind farm supporters

Backers of the proposed Cape Wind project on Horseshoe Shoals are blasting a congressional proposal that would give the governor of Massachusetts veto power over such projects.

Jim Gordon, president of Cape Wind Associates, who wants to build 130 turbines to generate electricity, said at a Monday news conference the proposal included in a Coast Guard appropriations bill singles out his project and is "obviously unfair and unwise."

Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, has proposed that, based on concerns about ship navigation, Massachusetts should have the right to reject any project on Nantucket Sound.

With Gov. Mitt Romney and other political leaders opposing the wind farm, supporters of Cape Wind said Stevens' bill all but gives Romney or future governors power to reject a windmill project.

Clean Power Now, a private, non-profit organization not affiliated with Cape Wind, but supportive of its plan, was prompted to send an alert to its members urging them to contact members of the conference committee reviewing the Coast Guard bill.

"This new language is clearly directed at this one particular project indicating that this has nothing to do with safe navigation but with deep pockets," the message said.

The conference committee, which meets in closed session, had not voted on the Stevens proposal by The Register's Wednesday deadline.

The Boston Herald contributed to this report.



Dennis Duffy, left, vice president of regulatory affairs for Cape Wind and Jim Gordon, Cape Wind president, speak against the legislative effort to give the governor of Massachusetts veto power over such projects
Boston Herald photo by Mike Adaskaveg