

Romney would veto wind farm

■ Governor leaves no doubt where he stands on the Nantucket Sound proposal.

By **DAVID KIBBE**
TIMES BOSTON BUREAU

BOSTON - If Congress gives the Massachusetts governor the power to veto the proposed Nantucket Sound wind farm, Gov. Mitt Romney says he will make the decision before he leaves office in January.

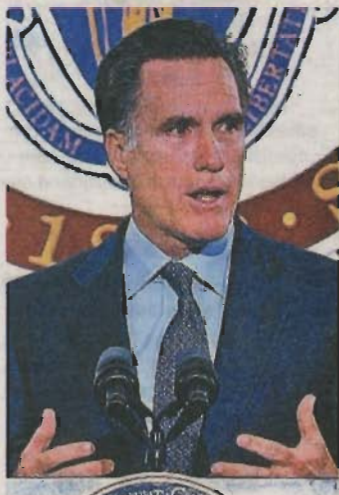
And yesterday Romney left no doubt where he stands, even though he pledged an "honest and fair review."

"I don't like the project at all," he told reporters at the Statehouse after making an unrelated announcement with U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy about a \$16 million nanotechnology grant for the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

"No one would suggest that we are going to put wind turbines in the Grand Canyon, despite the fact that we have high winds there. ...

"The same thing is true in Nantucket Sound. It's just the wrong place for this particular wind farm. But there are other places, good places in the commonwealth for wind farms."

Cape Wind is proposing 130 wind turbines in federal waters on Nantucket Sound. The project is under federal



WINSLOW TOWNSON/Associated Press

Gov. Mitt Romney says he supports wind power, but not at the proposed location off Cape Cod.

The Stevens amendment

Earlier this month, a congressional conference committee endorsed an amendment to the \$8.7 billion Coast Guard authorization bill that would allow the Bay State governor to veto a wind farm on Nantucket Sound.

The language, which was floated by U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, specifically targets Nantucket Sound.

The full House will debate the measure first.

If it passes there, it goes to the Senate.

A House floor debate had not been scheduled as of yesterday, and may not happen this week, according to the House Transportation Committee.

Please see **ROMNEY /A-12**

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Romney: Governor would veto wind farm

continued from A-1

review.

Romney's remarks were his first since a congressional effort surfaced this spring to ban wind turbines on the sound.

U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, reportedly wrote the federal amendment that grants the governor of Massachusetts the authority to veto the wind farm. It was contained in an \$8.7 billion Coast Guard reauthorization bill, which still must be approved by the full Congress.

The amendment cleared a conference committee earlier this month, before Congress adjourned for Easter recess. It could come up in the House and Senate as soon as this week.

Romney professed to know little about the amendment. He has not been involved in the federal legislation, according to his office, but has made his opposition to the wind farm clear during visits to Washington.

"I haven't seen the legislation," Romney said yesterday.

Cape Wind spokesman Mark Rodgers was disappointed by Romney's remarks.

"The vast majority of the citizens of Massachusetts and of the United States are tired of empty rhetoric from political leaders about the need for greater energy independence, cleaner air and lower energy prices," Rodgers said.

"Cape Wind is a tangible project that delivers all of these benefits and would set Massachusetts as a global leader in the important field of offshore clean energy production."

Romney is not running for reelection in the fall. Instead, he is mulling a run for the Repub-

lican presidential nomination. He apparently does not want to leave the wind farm decision for his successor. "I anticipate making a decision before I leave office," he said.

So far, the only gubernatorial candidate to fully support the project is Democrat Deval Patrick. The latest Democrat to enter the field, Chris Gabrieli, gave the wind farm conditional support in a debate last week, saying it depends on the final environmental report and getting the right deal for the state.

Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey, a Republican; Attorney General Tom Reilly, a Democrat; and Christy Mihos, running as an independent, all oppose the project.

Kennedy's office, after first saying the Senator was unfamiliar with the details of the legislation, confirmed this month that he was pushing Stevens to pass the legislation.

"I have every intention to speak for Massachusetts," Kennedy told Statehouse News Service yesterday. "The state should have some voice in it."

Romney said he was opposed to the location of the wind farm but insisted he still supports wind power.

"With regard to our plans for wind power and alternative energy sources, we want more of that, not less," Romney said. "We want some say where it goes. When you have a project like Cape Wind, something that's surrounded by tourist areas and navigation areas and the like, it presents a real problem."

"No one would suggest that we are going to put wind turbines in the Grand Canyon, despite the fact that we have high winds there."

GOV. MITT ROMNEY

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