

Kerry quiet on wind bill

By **KEVIN DENNEHY**

A couple of months ago, U.S. Sen. John Kerry called a congressional effort to kill the Nantucket Sound wind farm - by targeting any project near shipping lanes - an "insult to Americans who care about good government."

In recent weeks, though, Kerry has been pretty quiet about an amended version of that provision that specifically targets the Cape Wind project.

This while lawmakers from across the country - and, for that matter, the Bush administration - are weighing in on the amendment, which was tucked into an \$8.7 billion Coast Guard bill that awaits a floor debate.

When asked about a denunciation of the provision by the Department of Energy last week, a spokeswoman for the senator said Kerry has not come out one way or the other on the amendment.

But spokeswoman Brigid O'Rourke's response confirmed that at least on one topic - the man who beat Kerry in 2004 - the senator's view hasn't changed:

"It's rather historic," O'Rourke said. "I think it's the first time the Bush administration has spoken out about an energy source that wasn't oil."

A CBS4 poll last week showed that Chris Gabrieli has achieved a dead heat with the other two Democratic candidates for governor, Attorney General Tom Reilly and Deval Patrick, a civil rights attorney in the Clinton administration.

Those numbers, however, won't mean much if Gabrieli can't earn the support of 15 percent of the delegates at the party convention next month.

And so it was that Gabrieli, a late entry into the race, visited Hyannis Saturday night to lock up support among party loyalists at the Cape and Islands Democratic Council's Jefferson-Jackson dinner.

Incidentally, it was during the same event last year that Patrick, at the time largely unknown, made his first major Cape appearance.

Also attending the Saturday dinner were all four Democratic candidates for lieutenant governor as well as Secretary of State William Galvin; state Treasurer Tim Cahill; and U.S. Rep. William Delahunt, the Cape's congressman.

Jeff Beatty, the 54-year-old Republican challenging Delahunt for his congressional seat, will address local Republican voters in Hyannis tonight.

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A former CIA counterterrorism agent who moved to Harwich full time a year ago, Beatty is also the founder of an anti-terrorism consulting firm.

Yet it's not national security that lured him into the race, he insists, but the state's economy.

Beatty is expected to speak at 7:30 p.m. during the Barnstable Republican Town Committee's regular meeting at the Rene Poyant realty office at 282 Barnstable Road.

A few weeks ago, Yarmouth businessman and independent gubernatorial candidate Christy Mihos said he was on the verge of choosing a running mate.

Apparently, though, it didn't work out.

Mihos says an announcement will not be made anytime soon.

"We have all summer," he said after a Cape appearance last week.

The impeachment debate could be moot, considering House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said yesterday she doesn't see the Democrats pushing for the impeachment of President Bush even if they win the House in November.

But a Cape group is urging the discussions to start now.

An organization called Wake-Up Cape Cod is sponsoring a public forum on impeachment at 7 p.m. Friday at the Tilden Auditorium at Cape Cod Community College, Route 132, West Barnstable.

Peter White of Yarmouth, an independent candidate challenging Delahunt, will make the case for impeachment.

Others, including Times columnist Francis Broadhurst, will argue the president doesn't deserve it.

At the very least, it could be a good civics lesson. John Bonifaz, a Democratic candidate for secretary of state, will explain the process.

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