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Wastewater threatens Cape environment

Probably the greatest threat to Cape Cod today is the wastewater management issue. It is an issue that affects every aspect of water on the Cape: the ponds and lakes, coastal embayments and even our drinking water, since the aquifer is recharged by groundwater.

The basic problem, but by no means the only one, is that our "default" system for dealing with wastewater is individual septic systems, including Title 5 systems, which are not designed to remove nitrogen from wastewater.

We have an abundance of governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations and citizens groups on the Cape that are concerned about the problem and are working to find solutions. Important studies have been and are being conducted to determine the most critical areas that need to be addressed.

We need forward-thinking leadership in each of our 15 towns on the Cape working with the county and the state to find solutions to this problem.

An additional issue on Cape Cod is the squandering of an opportunity to use the one natural resource that we have for producing energy in New England and that is wind.

Last year, the League of Women Voters, Cape Cod Area, came to consensus in support of "Wind Energy on Cape Cod" through such projects as the Cape Wind project on Nantucket Sound.

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