

Keith Harriton
Swan's Island

Dear Elected Officials,

My wife and I have been residents of Swan's Island, Maine for 20 years. We love our beautiful Island and the hardworking, responsible lobstermen and fishermen who make it the unique community that it is and, hopefully, always will be. There aren't many places like this left and the sad thing is that our elected officials don't seem to realize and respect the treasure that is the Maine coast. It is a piece of Americana that should be far more valued and protected than it is by you and its contribution to the Maine economy is critical.

You won't know what you had until it's gone and windmills in the Gulf of Maine will wreck it all in short order. I came from Long Island, New York and I've seen what an unsightly image windmills present to anyone on the water. I've seen them while fishing off of Montauk Point and they are breathtakingly ugly. Perhaps that is why the wealthy communities in the "Hamptons" recently banded together to put an abrupt end to the development of an additional wind farm in their backyard just like the Kennedys did for years on the Cape.

However, it is the impact your proposed behemoths will have on the fishing industry that is most disturbing. The deleterious impact of these massive intrusions on a sensitive marine environment, some of which can be calculated but many of which cannot even be imagined, on a long term "experimental" basis will be ruinous. There is no rationale in terms of cost savings, environmental impact or alternative energy source by which you can justify these ridiculous structures. The energy they produce is prohibitively expensive, there is no empirical evidence that they will result in any improvement to the environment (quite the contrary) and we have learned from experience that they will not provide a reliable, alternative source of energy. How are you going to tear them down when they are shown to be useless?!

The only "explanation" for this effort that defies all reason is that there are vast sums of money to be made by some in the endeavor whether by profits or tax breaks. We will not sit idle while our economy, environment and peace of mind are destroyed by business incentives devoid of all logic. We will remember those of you who stood by and supported your fellow citizens and their livelihoods and way of life and those who buckled to political pressure.

Sincerely,

Keith and Cathy Harriton
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