

Embrace the new frontier of offshore wind

Don Cuddy reported on offshore wind, suggesting it could “scatter our fishing fleet like dry leaves.” Yet over recent decades, carbon emissions from fossil fuels caused warmer, more acidic waters to scatter our favorite fish. We’ve learned we may use fossil fuels, or have locally caught fish, but not both. Do local fishing industries matter to us?

Cuddy didn’t mention offshore wind is supported by legislators and the governor because state law requires 80 percent emissions by 2050. Deep cuts don’t happen overnight. Local clean electricity supplies must be developed to enable clean transportation and heating. We often claim environmental leadership, but we lag in developing renewables. Don’t we care?

Cuddy’s comparison of electricity rates doesn’t consider that our natural gas-based electricity causes expenses to society, including: environmental harms from emissions, healthcare costs from fossil fuel pollutants, and economic losses suffered by other industries (fishing, is just one). These costs should be added to our natural gas-based electricity rates when comparing to solar or off-shore wind rates.

In this new year, let’s drop negativism, and embrace the future with hope. As President Kennedy said: “The old era is ending. The old ways will not do. The New Frontier is here whether we seek it or not.”

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