

# What we put in our air returns to hurt us

Monday, September 24, 2012

Re '50 years on, environmentalists just as relevant' (Monitor Forum, Sept. 19):

Thank you for Mike Di Paola's column on the anniversary of Rachel Carson's Silent Spring which was condemned by chemical companies selling carcinogenic insecticides. Her work on DDT's effects on birds took her to Cape Cod where birds were dying from DDT. Chemical manufacturers tried discrediting her work when it was published and are still decrying her work today. David Koch is a chemical manufacturer and oil and gas tycoon. Is it a surprise that Koch, manufacturer of climate change disinformation, also continues to defame Carson with falsehoods?

It is ironic that the beautiful scenery of Cape Cod was sullied by insecticides. Tragically, in many Cape Cod towns, women experienced substantially higher rates of breast cancer than in the rest of Massachusetts. Scientists now warn about the health, economic and safety risks of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, but residents of these towns (led by an institution funded by the Koch family) fight to prevent offshore wind power which would reduce use of polluting fossil fuels.

It is horrible that people did not learn from high rates of cancer that what we put in our air and water, will return to hurt us. We need Congress to tax the extraction of fossil fuels so their sellers pay for the pollution they cause, and the damage their pollution does to the rest of us.

As we learn to use less coal, oil and gas, perhaps even Cape Cod residents will see the beauty of wind turbines at sea.

JUDY WEISS

Brookline, Mass.

[http://www.concordmonitor.com/article/356923/what-we-put-in-our-air-returns-to-hurt-us?  
&CSAuthResp=1348483894%3AAtbqor0537893db3mpk5f234ik1%3ACSUserId%7CCSGroupId%3Aapproved%3A8A495C8EC15AEDCA1840B7155FC9B014&CSUserId=94&CSGroupId=1](http://www.concordmonitor.com/article/356923/what-we-put-in-our-air-returns-to-hurt-us?&CSAuthResp=1348483894%3AAtbqor0537893db3mpk5f234ik1%3ACSUserId%7CCSGroupId%3Aapproved%3A8A495C8EC15AEDCA1840B7155FC9B014&CSUserId=94&CSGroupId=1)