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# Tribe's spiritual objections to wind farm ring hollow

January 19, 2010

Perhaps few things surprise environmental advocates more than the Aquinnah Wampanoag Indians opposing Cape Wind's construction of 130 wind turbines off the eastern coast of Martha's Vineyard, on the grounds that such an installation would interfere with their spiritual sunrise rituals. (Note: the Aquinnah live on the westernmost

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limit of Martha's Vineyard, where they undoubtedly continue to enjoy divine sunsets.)

The Wampanoag's claim that windmills would offend their "viewshed" is as eccentric as the island's well-heeled waterfront homeowners believing that money and privilege alone can overwhelm Cape Wind's proposal. While money may be temporarily buying the influence of others, it can't be traded for environmental exclusivity. Without an American-led green energy revolution, no amount of money will protect waterfront compounds, yacht clubs and sailing docks from rising sea levels.

Cape Wind delivers innovation, energy independence and economic rebirth, all of which appeal to my spiritual

Stacy Clark

Dallas, Texas

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