

Strident voices slander the motives of those reaching out at this late date to preserve the operation and utility of Falmouth's two wind turbines. Perhaps some might understand a brief personal statement as to why I am spending time and energy and scarce money in support of that effort.

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## **Why Do I Care?**

Why do I care about Falmouth's wind turbines? Why do I fight so hard for them?

Here's why.

This week, a small item in the New York Times noted that the permafrost of the Arctic holds twice as much carbon as the current atmosphere holds. That's a huge amount of carbon. An enormous store of carbon that is enough to change the climate faster than anything that has come before.

Now, that permafrost is melting. And so we have a global emergency. Because even though we have seen massive storms in Puerto Rico, and South Florida, New Orleans and Jakarta, though we have seen firestorms in California, Montana, Europe and Australia, though we have big migrations of people from drought-stricken countries in Africa, to European countries, we have only begun to see what carbon can do to our world.

We have seen nothing compared to the human dislocation and chaos that will flow from unleashing the carbon in the permafrost. How do I know that? This topic is my life. I have been studying and talking about this issue for fifty years. I have spent decades following and mapping the carbon budget of the planet. Thirty years ago my colleagues and I right here in Falmouth, sounded the alarm about the need to keep the permafrost frozen. What we predicted about how climate change would play out worldwide, is now reality, today's crises.

Humans know one effective way to avert the global emergency of climate change: stop burning fossil fuels. And the only way to preserve major parts of our way of life is to turn to renewable energy. Sun and wind.

It's easy to say that two wind turbines won't make a difference in worldwide climate change. It's easy to give up in the face of thorny local problems and opposition. But if we have learned anything from the national response to climate change over the last year, it's that local action matters. The actions of a small town on Cape Cod matter in the national discussion of climate change. They matter as an example to others. They matter as a hedge against further climate change. They matter as part of a national movement. We can't give up.

I have lived a long life. It's a good bet that I won't be here to see it, but there are people living in Falmouth today who are likely to see a sea level rise of ten feet.

I care about those people. I care about this place. I care about our planet and our future. I care enough to ask our leaders to persist in finding a compromise that keeps the wind machines and protects our citizens.

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