

The Boston Globe

Don't attack the symptom and ignore the disease

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CONSTRUCTION OF a sea barrier across the harbor sidesteps crucial questions (“[The great wall of Boston](#),” A1, Feb. 19). David Abel provides an informative description of the cost, perils, and benefits of these “climate adaptation” efforts. However, the article raises much bigger questions. For example, are we really prepared to spend many billions of dollars to protect the city, but not to take the obvious steps to reduce the carbon pollution that worsens the underlying problem? Are we really prepared to spend many billions so that Exxon Mobil can continue to enjoy healthy dividends for its shareholders? While some sea level rise has been “locked in” by our previous carbon pollution, future sea levels will be determined by the amount of additional CO₂ we release from this time forward. The development of large amounts of clean energy should be a requirement in consideration of any such civic project.

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