

Good evening My name is Conny Hatch and I live in Belfast.
Thank you all for all the time and effort you put into these hearings.

I've been a Yoga teacher for over 15 years. Towards the end of each class I guide my students to lie down on their mats for the final pose of Shivasana, a quiet pose of conscious relaxation. One of the first things I say once everyone is down and still is this, "*surrender to the support of the earth*".

I realize that I am no longer sure the Earth will continue to be able to support us if we do not act to prevent further destruction to our land and oceans and air. I feel like Belfast and the entire Mid-Coast region of Maine has been put into harms way and I am deeply alarmed. *about the Nordic Aquafarms proposal.*

Here is my comment. I begin with an assumption:

That everyone in this room and in this city and in the state of Maine and beyond wants to have access to clean fresh water and air, healthy woodlands and forests, thriving rivers, estuaries, bays and ocean.

Here's another assumption:

That **(most)** everyone in this room and in this city and in the state of Maine and beyond realizes that the entire planet is in an undeniable ecological crisis. Meaning that all beings are vulnerable to the consequences of our ecosystems being unable to support basic survival needs.

The people of the State of Maine can choose to be at the forefront of regenerative agriculture, regenerative economics and a thriving egalitarian society and supporting it all: a strong backbone of ***environmental stewardship***.

Why then would we consider giving the green light to a mega-industrial project which clearly presents as the ***antithesis*** of an ecologically friendly and assured economic success story.

I looked up the definition of ***Regenerative Agriculture*** and this is what I found:

"Regenerative Agriculture is a system of farming principles and practices that increases biodiversity, enriches soils, improves watersheds, and enhances ecosystems. Regenerative Agriculture aims to capture carbon in soil and aboveground biomass, reversing current global trends of atmospheric accumulation".

If you, the members of the **Maine State Board of Environmental Protection** are assigned to enforce the laws related to environmental **PROTECTION** then the proposed Nordic Aquafarms project needs to be rejected as a direct and unmitigated assault to the environment and to the common good.