

## Burke, Ruth A

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**From:** Kate Dickerson <kdickerson@mainesciencefestival.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2020 7:06 PM  
**To:** DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms  
**Cc:** wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org; planningandcodes@cityofbelfast.org  
**Subject:** land based aquaculture, Maine

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To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Kate Dickerson and I'm the Founder and Director of the Maine Science Festival, where we celebrate and spotlight the science, engineering, innovation, and technology that happens in Maine. As someone who has seen first hand, for many years, the remarkable scientists, engineers, and researchers that we have working in Maine - in areas as diverse as genetics, composites, agriculture (both on land in the ground and the water), forestry, and microorganisms to name just a few - I am compelled to offer my support to land based aquaculture in Maine.

Our oceans are changing mightily due to climate change, and the way that ocean fishing used to be done is getting more and more untenable. The development of land-based aquaculture has been an a huge asset to ensuring a more sustainable way to provide food for populations across the world, and I am heartened to see these systems begin to make inroads in Maine. Land-based aquaculture is based on solid science and engineering, and I have enjoyed many conversations with Maine researchers and scientists from our universities, nonprofit organizations, and businesses who are excited to grow this industry here. We have the expertise "in-house" to do the work, and we have an opportunity to lead the way and show other parts of the United States the value and importance of land-based aquaculture. I look forward to shining a large spotlight on Maine's land based aquaculture successes stories in the future.

With deep regards,  
Kate

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