

February 18, 2020

Dear Board of Environmental Protection,

I am writing to add to the abundance of written comments regarding Nordic Aquafarms. My hope is that the board will reject any and all permits that Nordic Aquafarms is seeking.

As a registered nurse I am deeply concerned about how this project will impact air quality. As someone who sees both children and adults that suffer from asthma and other respiratory diseases, I worry that this factory will increase their already difficult symptoms. Please take the time to walk around Belfast (in town) on a winter day when all the wood stoves are in use. On those days that the wind isn't blowing, the air will often just hang on, making it very hard to breathe. During these days if you need to go outside with a respiratory condition it is beyond difficult.

Has enough research gone into what effects this factory might have on air quality? Have independent studies happened? If not, then I implore that you request these. Why would the State of Maine give more importance to a foreign company making money than to the health of the people who live and work here?

I am also concerned about the mental health of our residents. This project has brought on an incredible amount of stress for many of the citizens in Belfast, Northport, and other nearby communities. People have had to leave their homes, spend enormous amounts of money, and devote countless hours of their time to fight this monstrosity. These people live here, work here, have small and medium sized businesses here, and raise their children here. How much more can we ask of these people if this project goes through?

People are worried about losing their well water, being subjected to blasting, noise, and particles of dust and debris in the air for 5 years. Not to mention losing a place where they go to find peace, solace, and connect with nature. There are countless studies showing the impact that nature has on the well being of people.

Why would the State of Maine let a company destroy wildlife habitat to build a factory for a monoculture? I'll tell you why you – MONEY. Please do your job and protect human health and our environment. Now, more than ever, we need to stand up to profit driven corporations and say, "No!". No to anything that continues to ignore climate, health, and nature.....while at the same time pretending to be "sustainable" and "green".

Please deny these permits for our climate, for animals, for clean air and water, for the warming waters in our oceans, for the rivers that could have natural salmon again. The longer we put off the changes that are necessary for this planet the more the burden will be placed on our children and their children. Stop this now and let us get on with our lives.

Thank you,

Robyn Duffy, RN, BSN  
Belfast, ME