

Burke, Ruth A

From: John Pincince <jgpincince@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 12:04 PM
To: DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms
Subject: Reasons for my opposition

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Dear Members of the Board of Environmental Protection,

My name is John Pincince. My wife Lucy and I have a small MOFGA certified organic farm in Lincolnville. We have one large hoop house and about one half acre in mixed vegetables and a few acres of field. In addition I manage two small fruit orchards for my neighbors . I only use material allowed by The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Certifying body. One reason I farm organically is that I do not want to pollute the crops I grow, the soil, groundwater , streams or ultimately, the Bay with substances that may negatively impact the water or any of the creatures that live in Penobscot bay and beyond.

I have always been someone who cares about our natural surroundings. My parents were always very conservative in the use of resources and my mom had a garden form which she made many a good meal and canned goods too. I mention these things because I believe it speaks to how perspective can develop in individuals and how this can affect how one thinks and feels towards something that seems so contrary to a careful and mindful use of nature. From the business perspective, Nordic seems like a fine thing. I understand that point of view but simply cannot agree with it. It is as though more jobs and lower taxes are the combined be all end all purpose of our existence in this culture. Surely, we can consider other values that may not be measurable but have as much and more value as the so-called positive benefits.

With respect to things immeasurable, I do not believe there is any way that any scientist can predict what the effects of the effluent from this factory will have on the Bay and all who live in it and depend on it. It is a system of complex interactions that are beyond measuring. Science makes controlled studies to help determine affects and effects but it is not possible in any scientific study of a system as complex as the Bay to control all variables. So for any scientist to say that the effluent will not cause harm to the Bay is the height of egotism, vanity and arrogance.

We humans have been using waters to carry away and dilute our effluent for millennia. It is only because of Laws like the Clean Water Act and other state and local initiatives that have kept the oceans from becoming more polluted. Even with these regulations, we are still dumping enormous quantities of treated and untreated pollutants into waters that really ought to be thought of as sacred and not as a convenient dumping area.

Among the myriad species that can be affected by what Nordic is proposing to dump, is the Native Wild Atlantic Salmon which is an endangered species. There are only five or six rivers that still have a small population of these extraordinary creatures in them. The Ducktrap river, just a few miles down the Bay from the Little River, is one of these. We should not be risking the extinction of this species as it could, one day again with time and careful management, provide food for all of us and jobs for fishermen as well as income from recreational fishing. This will not happen if we continue allowing these kinds of factories to release quantities of effluent (chemically treated sewage), into the Bay.

If Nordic were to get its permits and the Atlantic Salmon and other species disappear there will be no way of knowing for certain what caused it. That may well be what Nordic and corporations like it depend on. Form my perspective this only points to the fact that while they can say no harm will be done, they do not know nor does anyone.

We need to err on the side of caution when it comes to many things. But especially a complex natural ecosystem upon which so many depend.

Sincerely,

