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Regarding the Nordic Aquafarms proposal for a salmon factory in Belfast, Maine

To whom it may concern:

As a resident of Belfast whose property lies very near the proposed Nordic Aquafarms factory, I'd like to mention a few of the reservations I have concerning the project.

It has become extremely clear that the Earth is facing a climate catastrophe. It may already be too late to reverse the course to our destruction, but in any event, it makes no sense to me to release as much carbon into the atmosphere as the fish farm would.

It is by no means a carbon-neutral project. Cutting down the carbon sequestering forest, digging up to a depth of 20 feet on the 30 or so acres, ruining wetlands and streams, trucking materials in and out, manufacturing and applying countless yards of concrete, running five or more generators with fuel required and exhaust emitted would all add up to a carbon release that is unconscionable given what we know about climate change. It is immoral, and it accelerates an environmental catastrophe. The noise and fumes would ruin this side of the town of Belfast for the residents, both human and otherwise.

The Gulf of Maine is the fastest warming body of water in the Atlantic, and Nordic wishes to dump millions of gallons of water significantly warmer than that of the Penobscot Bay into the bay. It makes no sense to claim that this will not have an effect on the temperature of the bay, or the animals that depend on it as well as the fisherman whose livelihood depends on the animals and plants that inhabit it.

The noise of five years of construction plus the ongoing truck traffic supplying fish food, chemicals, fuel and transporting dead fish for the lifespan of the plant will be intolerable.

We lived through a massive airport expansion here with up to ten round trips per hour of 14 and 16 wheel diesel-spewing, jake-braking dump trucks last fall and winter, and that was a horrible experience with the stench, noise and dust. Those awful effects would be insignificant in comparison to the thousands of far larger trucks damaging Route 1, causing major traffic tie-ups which would, in turn wreck the tourist industry on which Belfast depends.

The Goose River is a lovely semi-wilderness area with many birds of many species, amphibians, beavers and wonderful big, fat fish where I love to kayak. It scares me that Nordic will be drawing from this lovely river. No environmental impact statement has been proposed for the Goose. A spokesperson for Nordic lied to me when she told me that the Goose would be left alone. Because of that lie and other unsubstantiated claims, I have no reason to believe that anything the company says is the truth.

The system that Nordic proposes will use vast amounts of water, fuel and take many risks already known and many unforeseeable. It is known not to be the best practice for the industry. If it wants a fish farm, why not choose a better, less environmentally significant location and make it a closed system which the science and experience in other fish factories indicate is the best, safest way to proceed? I cannot understand why it insists on such a destructive plan with so much killing of the forest and animals and so much damage to land, water and air and the quality of residents's lives.

I realize that my concerns for the likely compromise of my well with either salinization or drying up entirely is not an environmental concern of the DEP, but it certainly worries me that I will be forced to invest a great deal of money in a new well so that a large corporation can make a fortune at my expense. I also worry about the rock wall foundation of my house and question what the blasting will do to damage it. The value of my house and land will plummet.

If Nordic is allowed to proceed, I believe it will encourage other large and environmentally destructive projects in Maine because the CEOs will understand that our state will do anything for a possible buck.

Sincerely,

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