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Cynthia S. Bertocci

Executive Analyst, Board of Environmental Protection

17 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

Dear M's Bertocci:

Kindly allow me to submit the following comments to the Board of Environmental Protection regarding the application by Nordic Aquafarms, Inc. for its project at the Little River in Belfast.

My wife's family hails from the Calais area. I am "from away". We have lived in Maine since 1975, now in Northport on the south side of the Little River lower reservoir, virtually abutting the Belfast Water District and the site of the proposed Nordic Aquafarm plant. I speak to you as a local resident and as a veteran of our armed forces:

50 years ago I was called to serve in the United States Air Force. I took an oath to protect our country. I followed the rules. I did what I was supposed to do.

For the last 2 years I have watched Nordic Aquafarms do what it is supposed to do. It is an investment company that wants to sell us something, so I have not been surprised or impressed by the hyperbole and the partial truths of their sales pitch as they have promoted their product. Nordic's job is to make us want to buy, whether or not we need it, whether or not it is good for us. It is classic Madison Avenue. Caveat emptor.

I have been surprised, however, about how readily our Governor, our local officials, and our Federal and State legislators, supposedly experienced and wise to the world, have swallowed the financial bait, amplified Nordic's sales pitch, and then have found themselves hooked, unable to admit their mistake as contrary facts and consequences have accumulated. I don't think this what our politicians are supposed to do.

The combined promotion has engendered an expectation of significant economic benefits for the City. A more careful consideration of the eventual total costs and consequences, however, suggests that if Nordic is allowed to proceed, Belfast's taxpayers will end up disappointed. Worse, Nordic promotion of its economic claims has driven a very divisive wedge between otherwise well-meaning and civil citizens of our community. Whether or not Nordic comes, sadly I fear it will have one long term consequence: It will have unpleasantly divided our community for years to come.

What has really disappointed me, frankly, is that our regulatory agencies, supposedly expert, independent, supposedly featured by fairness and imbued with integrity, these agencies have not followed their own stated missions and their own rules. They have not been doing what they are supposed to do. From the outset, ignoring established and legally reconfirmed deeds as well as registered surveys, they have bypassed the first, foremost and most fundamental preeminent determination of proven Title, Right and Interest which exists to save the time and energy of those who serve on these agencies and the money of those of us who pay our taxes. And our regulatory agencies have also ignored, bent and stretched their own permitting rules and constrained and confined their hearings to unfairly favor and follow political pressure, suspect science and financial fantasy. I would have expected more from independent bodies of our fellow citizens.

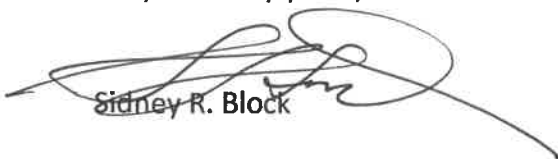
So, let me ask you: When was the last time you had to scrape bugs from the grill or front window of your car after a summer night's drive? When did you last awaken to a symphony of songbirds? When were you last able to pick mussels from the rocks at Kelly Cove? Why is there ever more green slime to be found on Bayside's beaches? Our own senses already perceive what is happening to our environment.

My parents, your parents and grandparents, survived the Great Depression, rebuilt our economy and protected our country by their selfless service in the Second World War. They have aptly been called "The Greatest Generation". Sadly, we, our generation, we have not been the best of stewards for the world they left us. Remember how long it took for Belfast to recover from the pollution of the bay and the downtown blight associated with the poultry industry. What will we leave to those who will follow us to clean up? This fish factory?

I am not optimistic about how the BEP will rule, so I am writing to you for the record, so that if someday, when because of Nordic our Little River forest and wildlife habitat are but a memory, our Belfast Bay waters polluted and our economy and our residential neighborhoods demeaned, when my children and grandchildren confront me, "How did this happen?", my name will have been recorded, and they will learn that I, amongst others, did care.

Every so often a stranger thanks me for my military service, and I reply, "I only did what I was supposed to do". If the BEP wants to thank me for my service, then please just follow your own rules and only do what you are supposed to do. You are the Bureau of Environmental Protection. You are supposed to protect our environment. If not you, who? If not now, when? If not here, where?

Very sincerely yours,



Sidney R. Block