

Burke, Ruth A

From: Steve Byers <stevejbyers@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2020 12:34 PM
To: DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms
Subject: Nordic Hearing

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Dear Maine DEP,

My name is Steve Byers. I am a resident of Waldo, Maine and small business owner of the Herbal Medicine Wellness Clinic in Belfast, ME. I am writing in complete opposition to the Nordic Aquafarms current proposals for permitting permission of pipelines into the Penobscot Bay as well as water-in take. There is clear research demonstrating that the massive size of this proposal will have many difficulties and high risks putting our delicate ecosystems at risk. The Nordic proposal would destroy sensitive ecosystems along the Little River, risk excessive mercury contamination of sensitive eel grass, lobster populations, and economic livelihoods of many industries including tourism, public water use at the Belfast City park (where my children swim), and other aquaculture businesses that are located in the bay (not on land).

Nordic Aquafarms has lied to our community and created a deep divide between friends, families, and businesses. The massive scope of this project is too big and if the project had been smaller, operated more slowly and honestly without deceiving landowners Jeffrey Mabee and Judith Grace, they may have shown themselves to be more trustworthy. If the DEP overlooks this point and sides with a company from Norway over the local Maine citizens, they will forever scar the reputation of the DEP in the minds and hearts of many.

This is a new industry. We need smaller examples that can be assessed thoroughly before opening up such a massive operation. Why start so big? There is no need to. Please prohibit this massive experiment and listen to evidence of how this corporation has behaved. They have lied. We don't want jobs created by liars. We want local young people who are connected to the land who will farm, start small aquaculture businesses, and support those already making a living on the bay: the lobstermen and women. Nordic will put this future at risk. The pipeline is very risky. The output is very risky. The bay is warming. How will you protect this sensitive ecosystem? By denying the permits to Nordic.

Thank you for listening and acting,
Steve Byers