

## Burke, Ruth A

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**From:** Kathy A. Gerard <kgmelon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2020 3:17 PM  
**To:** DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms  
**Subject:** Nordic Aquafarms

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Ruth Ann Burke

17 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Dear Ms. Burke:

When my husband and I recently moved from Virginia to Waldo County, Maine, we were shocked to learn that plans are moving forward to allow the Norwegian company, Nordic Aquafarms, to build an enormous fish factory farm in the City of Belfast.

The quaint little town of Belfast and the beauty of the Penobscot Bay is what attracted us to live in this area. We fear that if Nordic Aquafarm's proposal is approved, the ensuing pollution generated by this industrial sized fish-farming project will jeopardize the health of the Penobscot Bay. After the devastating impact of the poultry processing plants on these waters, it certainly does not make sense to add more pollution. Nordic plans to discharge millions of gallons of effluent each day into an already fragile ecosystem.

Noise pollution, the destruction of wildlife habitat, ground water depletion and traffic are just a few of the other concerns raised by this enormous project. In addition, there are likely negative outcomes that have yet to be identified.

Please do not permit Nordic Aquafarms to undertake this project. The City of Belfast will not benefit. The tax revenue (if ever received) will never compensate for the devastation a project of this magnitude will create. (What happens when Nordic fails, and leaves Belfast? Who is responsible for cleaning up the mess?) History has shown us that polluting the beautiful Penobscot Bay has consequences. With all the negative influences on our fragile ecosystems, we cannot afford to risk our children's future by allowing this monstrosity in. Nature may not be as forgiving next time.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Kathy Gerard

Waldo County