

Burke, Ruth A

From: Melissa Kearns <melissa@mskbusinesssolutions.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:06 PM
To: DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms
Subject: A Citizen's Concern

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Dear BEP and DEP Board and Staff

I grew up in Orrington, Maine where the Penobscot River runs mightily through. I am very quick and proud to say that I am from Maine when people inquire about where I came from.

I attended public school, John Bapst Memorial High School and graduated with my BA from the University of Maine, Orono in 2002.

I have spent a tremendous amount of time on Penobscot Bay and the communities that stretch along both the East and West Penobscot Bays. I consider myself a child of the Waldo, Penobscot and Hancock counties where family and friends can be found that encompass some of the most beautiful scenery and resources this state has to offer; I am a proud child, daughter, student and neighbor of the people who live here and make up this place I call home.

I have lived on and off in this beautiful state and return home as often as possible with excitement and delight. For the past 13 years I have lived in New York City and come home every chance I get; I have brought travelers from far and wide to share in the beauty of our nature, its inhabitants and the culture that has shaped and formed me for the 44 years of the blessed life which I live.

I recently returned to Maine, as I often do, after a major life event, to get my bearings, commune with and tap into her nature and especially to connect with and gain strength and inspiration from the fine folks that live and work and make up this great State of Maine.

I have worked in business development for Social and Economic Justice across a swath of disciplines, including direct service in New Orleans post Katrina, a policy think tank and magazine that tackled important issues facing our democracy and its citizenry and for social entrepreneurs and scientists helping farmers in Africa. I also worked privately in business development for Multi-million-dollar construction firms in New York City post Super Storm Sandy as well as most recently in Puerto Rico post Hurricane Maria.

I attended the public hearings held at the Hutchinson Center from Feb 11th to Feb 14th and have many trepidations about this proposed Land Based Aquafarm in Belfast and implore you to spend more time making a decision and demanding research that would allow NAF access to natural resources based on your permitting decision.

Please request more due diligence and research from NAF. Please listen to the local people and the requests they have made of you as well as meeting the expectations we have of you.

I am deeply concerned about the strategies, premise and reasoning for their access to and exploitation of our natural resources. Please take into consideration this watershed moment in policy as well as a world where natural disasters and disease are happening on a much larger scale.

please have Nordic do more research and provide substantial proof that this is truly the right move and investment for us.

Sincerely

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