



31 January 2020

Re: Letter of Support Nordic Aquafarms

CC: DEP Maine; City of Belfast

To whom it may concern:

I am Larry Feinberg PhD, CEO and Founder of KnipBio Inc, based in Lowell MA and writing this letter of support for the proposed Nordic Aquafarms land-based (RAS) aquaculture project. KnipBio, founded in 2013, is a venture-funded “bluetech” biotechnology firm that has developed the first dedicated microbial-derived single cell protein with a US-FDA GRAS approval. We have enjoyed strong support from New England based investors, including Maine Angels. Our proprietary protein has been demonstrated in >7 aquatic species and can be an alternative to precious, limited fishmeal. The functional benefits include improved performance on the farm, disease and stress management.

Aquaculture as commonly noted is the fastest growing source of animal protein and has been outpacing beef production and wild-caught harvest since the mid 2010’s. Fish is arguably one of the healthiest proteins to eat and requires the least amount of resources to produce. The UN-WHO has reported that a doubling of today’s food production volumes is required to keep up with a global population of nearly 10B by 2050. This is a daunting task in the back-drop of today’s demand where we already use ~40% of the surface of the planet and 70% of our freshwater for agriculture. It’s difficult to imagine how we achieve this food doubling goal without turning to fish. An additional alarming fact is that the US imports >90% of its seafood from abroad, often from illegal, under-reported and unregulated (IUU) sources.

Offshore aquaculture is maturing and has made considerable progress over the last few decades in terms of productivity. Despite producing high quality products, there are several issues that persist. Escapes of farmed fish potentially can be detrimental to native populations. Close containment in net pens makes populations more vulnerable to diseases and parasites like sea lice in salmon. In locations like Norway, leases are already 100% allocated and there is no potential for growth going forward.

Nordic Aquafarms project literally addresses everyone of these issues. Domestic, traceable, accountable, healthy and good for the environment while providing a critical source of nutrition. This project represents even more to the local community for which it will provide an economic base, educational outreach opportunity and serve as a symbol for the state of Maine’s position of global leadership.

I have met the senior leadership from Nordic Aquafarms and find them to be thoughtful, passionate and dedicated to conducting their business at a higher level compared to current industry standards. I support this project and their others enthusiastically. It frankly saddens me that this positive initiative has received so much friction from the community that will benefit the most from it. The day where I eat Maine-raised salmon grown in a RAS facility can’t come soon enough. For any questions or follow-up, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

Regards,

Larry Feinberg PhD CEO & Founder

KnipBio Inc