

## Burke, Ruth A

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**From:** Aaron L. Rosenblum <aaronlouis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 9:06 AM  
**To:** DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms  
**Subject:** Nordic Aquafarms

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To the Maine DEP,

My name is Aaron Rosenblum, and I am a property owner of Northport, Maine. I am a lifelong part-time resident, and in addition to a deep commitment to the regional and global environment, I am a proprietor of a rental property and therefore effectively a small business owner with a stake in Maine and Penobscot Bay's all-important tourism industry.

I am writing to object to the approval of permits for the Nordic Aquafarms salmon factory being proposed in the town of Belfast. Without a large number of revisions and the provision of much more information by Nordic Aquafarms, the project can not even be assessed as to its full impact, and I do not believe there is a good faith effort on the part of Nordic to make sure the project keeps Belfast and nearby communities whole.

The dumping of wastewater into the bay is a huge concern, bringing to mind the era of chicken processing and its effluent that once polluted the bay near Belfast. We cannot risk the current aquaculture of the bay, from the commercial lobster fishery to the rest of the ecosystem, not to mention the recreational opportunities that fuel tourism in the region. The potential recovery of wild Atlantic salmon should take precedence over the introduction of waste from on-shore salmon farming.

The carbon impact of this proposal is immense - from the construction emissions to the loss of tree canopy. Now is not the time to be incurring this kind of carbon debt, as the state looks to curb emissions and move to a greener future.

Since Northport receives its water from the Belfast water system, I also feel invested (as I assume is the DEP) in the protection of the aquifer and fresh water sources for the purposes these sources already serve - providing fresh water to the people of Belfast and the surrounding areas while protecting the local environment. The volume of water Nordic proposes to use is monumental. As we face extreme weather of all kinds with increasing frequency, I wonder who gets water first when we experience a multi-year drought. If there is not a firm, binding agreement that people drink before the salmon do, this project can not be approved. In addition, there are legitimate concerns that pulling 1250 gallons of water per minute will lead to saltwater intrusion and, again, put the drinking water supply of coastal communities at risk. This is not a risk worth taking.

I understand Belfast, like all towns, needs to receive revenue. However, the climate and extinction crisis demand that we move beyond the business-as-usual model proposed, and adopt innovative, creative technologies and systems that drastically lower greenhouse gas emissions, and protect the natural world. Protecting the Penobscot Bay from pollution and warming is critical.

If Nordic Aquafarms wants to be part of the Penobscot Bay community and economy, I believe they must alter their plans to ensure the protection of the current natural and human populations, or seek another site for their project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Aaron Rosenblum

Northport