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From: polly shyka <pollyshyka@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 8:18 PM
To: DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms
Subject: Letter of concern about Nordic Aquafarms proposal

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Dear Officials at the Department of Environmental Protection,

My name is Polly Shyka, and I am a resident of Freedom, Maine. I am the co-owner of Villageside Farm. We have been certified organic producers for 14 years. Our annual gross sales are nearly \$300,000. We were selected as Stewards of the Year in 2011 by the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Organic farms like ours have been steadily producing more and more food for Maine people. We consider ourselves temporary stewards of soil that the last glacier left. We would like this Peru-Marlow soil to be right here, healthier and more productive in another 100, 500, even 13,000 years. Stewardship, to me, means thinking and acting with a long view.

Now more than ever, we humans need to change our ways so that there will be clean water, healthy soil and clean air for our grandchildren and all of the other creatures of the future.

I am contacting you concerning the Nordic Aquafarms salmon factory being proposed in Belfast on the Little River.

I am appalled that the Nordic Aquafarms proposal includes the following known and predictable repercussions:

1. The dumping of 7.7 million gallons *every day* of nitrogen rich and warmer than ambient temperature effluent that will also contain unknown quantities of chemicals and drugs including antibiotics, pesticides and cleaning agents, as well as pathogens that will pass through the filtration system into the Penobscot Bay.

I want to swim in and eat fish from a *clean* Penobscot Bay.

I want the native species of salmon and sturgeon to thrive in clean, native waters, not effluent.

I want NO MORE PESTICIDES anywhere. Organic farms have proven that we can feed people and animals without the use of harmful chemicals. The aquaculture industry needs to follow suit.

2. The use of so much electricity that the existing grid cannot sustain the demand which equals that of Belfast, Northport, Lincolnville, Camden, Rockport and Rockland combined.

We are in a time of climate crisis worldwide. Permitting businesses that intend to pollute AND use extravagant power resources is just not right. Belfast has targets to meet for CO2 reductions. Nordic Aquafarms' massive factory's energy needs will make meeting state targets very difficult. It will place an unfair burden for reductions on residents and businesses.

This is not the future I want for Maine, the children of the future, the flora, the fauna, the land, the waters.

I believe that local and state policies should incentivize 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.

Nordic's approach is an outdated model based on receiving a "license to pollute." Belfast, the State of Maine, and the world can no longer afford this approach.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Polly Shyka
Villageside Farm
Freedom