

Burke, Ruth A

From: Jude Spacks <clotheye@gwi.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 2:37 PM
To: DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms
Subject: No to Nordic Acquafarms

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Dear Maine Board of Environmental Protection

My name is Jude Spacks. I have lived in Belfast for 30 years. I own a home here. I love our town, our beautiful state and the ecology of our planet.

For the sake of the love of all that sustains us, I urge you to protect our environment by turning down the Nordic Acquafarms salmon factory proposal.

This farm would be harmful in so many ways, at a time when it is beyond urgent that we protect our resources and look past the destructive dominance of unsustainable business practices to new ways of caring for ourselves and our world.

The proposed farm would:

- Dump *daily* 7.7 million gallons of nitrogen-rich effluent containing unknown quantities of chemicals and drugs including antibiotics, pesticides and cleaning agents, as well as pathogens that will pass through the filtration system. This toxic soup would go every day into the Penobscot Bay where children swim, lobstermen fish, and endangered atlantic salmon and shortnose sturgeon struggle to survive. The impact would be enormously destructive.
- Totally destroy a maturing, carbon sequestering forest and wildlife habitat of special significance, losing a large, vital tract of carbon-storing soils and critical shoreland wetlands, streams and drainages.
- Require massive infrastructure with a huge carbon footprint (it would be equal to the size of Gillette Stadium plus Fenway Park, and two TD Gardens),
- Mar our air with eight diesel generators each with a 67 foot smokestack, along with a cement plant
- Require alterations to Route 1 and at least 5 years of construction
- Drain 1,250 gallons of fresh water a minute from our precious aquifer,
- Use so much electricity that the existing grid cannot sustain the demand which equals that of Belfast, Northport, Lincolnville, Camden, Rockport and Rockland combined.

Of course I understand that Belfast, like all towns, needs to receive revenue. I pay taxes here! However, I see no guarantee that overall gains of revenue would result either short or long term. Nordic has not shown that they have the financial capacity to build and maintain a \$500 million project. Common sense and experience suggests a strong likelihood that we would be left with a destroyed forest that is currently thriving and a huge environmental clean up project after the treasure of our aquifer had been squandered for a big idea that has been debunked. And the revenue that we currently enjoy from our creative and tourist economy would be impacted by this enormous increase of noise and water pollution.

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.

It is my understanding that far more sustainable aquaculture systems exist which require significantly less energy, recycle all of their waste, and do not entail the antibiotics, pesticides and caustic cleaners Nordic requires.

Maine should choose to support corporations using these fully closed systems. This will bring good and lasting jobs and revenue to Maine. It will guarantee that local lobstering and fishing businesses, as well as small-scale aquaculture ventures, and recovering wild fish populations, are protected from pollution.

Fully closed systems are the future, and they represent a win-win-win for Maine.

We have the chance to lead in adapting to the urgent needs of our time. That starts with refusing to sell out to destructive, bloated unsustainable models of business.

Thank you for the work you do to protect our environment.

Sincerely,

Jude Spacks



Jude Spacks
Cloth Eye Arts
Creative Mind Consults

www.TruthDareCoaching.com
blog: www.Stinkwanink.com
Twitter: [Judespacks.twitter.com](https://twitter.com/Judespacks)
clotheye@gwi.net
207 338 6331