

February 16, 2020.

Dear Board of Environmental Protection:

A fish in the tank is not worth two in the ocean. The Bay is not mobile; Nordic and companies like it are extremely mobile. The ocean has proven to provide, a million times over, oxygen, food, economic benefits, health, habitat, recreation. Nordic is proposing to provide food and economic benefits.

This letter is about more than Belfast, a town I have called home and been fortunate to participate in since the eighties. This letter is about a State not ceding to an investor-driven company, the oversight power of protecting the existing ocean industries and fish that are the company's competition.

Nordic has no experience monitoring discharge 24/7 into the Bay and catching disease/toxins at this volume. An untested volume that has no precedent in the State and could fit 160 Maine aquaculture industry WDLs (at 45,000 gpd each) into this single outflow. Non-compliance NOV's or fines do not restore the Bay from damages.

We can't go back in time and change our compounding actions. Some consequences are publicly known in Maine, oceans are warming, species are migrating north and to deeper waters, sea-levels are rising. Now, with everything, we all need the ocean. And the ocean needs us to reduce our combined impacts and be real about liabilities.

The Board of Environmental Protection has the power to protect the voice of the entire body of stakeholders in this Bay ecosystem. I ask you to guarantee that the millions of gallons of wastewater Nordic plans to discharge daily, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any connected body of water and damage the fish of Penobscot Bay.

Sincerely,



Ezra Kao
Belfast, Maine