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From: Trudy Miller <trudyfoxmiller@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 12:03 PM
To: DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms
Subject: Nordic Aquafarms Permitting

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TO: The Maine Board of Environmental Protection
WITH RESPECT TO: Nordic Aquafarms Permit Application

My name is Trudy Miller. I am a resident of Bayside and a property owner in Belfast. I am not an expert in any of the particular disciplines which are relevant to this permitting decision, so I have nothing to add in those areas. However I do have a masters of science degree and enough scientific background to understand how to evaluate the credibility of information on scientific topics about which I know little. So I am speaking to you as an informed concerned local citizen.

When I first read about Nordic Aquafarms proposal in 2018 it sounded like a good idea to me for two reasons. One was that it would bring a lot of good jobs (and I hoped young families) to our area and the other was I like the company's mission to provide a sustainable source of high quality protein while also reducing CO2 emissions. Thus it would have both local and global positive impact. I didn't think much more about it.

Since then I have learned a lot more about the positive economic impact that Nordic will have on our region and I purchased a building in Belfast last year giving me a little more of a rooting interest financially with respect to my taxes. I have also learned a great deal about aquaculture in Maine and RAS systems specifically and I am excited about the technologies. But most of all I have been impressed by the quality, diligence and expertise of the Nordic Aquafarms people I have met and listened to and by their extraordinary level of transparency about their plans. For all these reasons I have become a strong supporter of their project.

I am actually fairly resentful that I feel I must take the time yet again to speak out about this topic. One of my friends said to me recently "I was not necessarily a strong proponent of Nordic but the opposition has made me into one." I realized that I feel somewhat similarly. We have permitting processes for evaluating in great detail proposed new businesses and industries in Belfast and Maine. Rather than letting those processes play out, this project has been from day one the target of a relentless, repetitive and wholly negative attack based primarily on pseudoscience and scare mongering in the service of local xenophobia. Those of us who care about evidence-based science have thus been forced into the position of repeatedly defending science in a variety of ways in the face of assertions which are not based on credible evidence and which use one form or another of science denial techniques. One would hope defending science wouldn't be necessary in an educated representative democracy but that is what has happened in Belfast. It is time consuming and frankly exhausting to rebut the same misleading arguments over and over and over.

I want to emphasize that I care deeply about the health of the bay and the planet and that my support for Nordic Aquafarms is now and always has always been contingent on the project passing environmental permitting at all levels. I need to be sure that it won't harm the bay. I know that Maine's environmental permitting processes are among the most stringent in the country and I trust you and the work that you are

doing to uphold them. I am grateful for your time and your knowledge. It is my hope that you will be able to permit the Nordic Aquafarms project. Thank you for your attention.

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