

February 17, 2020

Dear Belfast Planning Board, and the DEP,

My name is Douglas Miska, and I am a resident of Bayside/ Northport, Maine. I am also a resident of Miami, Florida and have been coming to Bayside and Belfast every year for the last 39 years straight. Have not missed a summer, and two years ago, I bought a cottage on Shore Road, zip code 04849. Bayside, Belfast, the Camden Conference, and the State of Maine are extremely important to my family and me. I can't imagine it being ruined/polluted and not having it part of our lives. I am contacting you concerning the Nordic Aquafarms salmon factory being proposed in the town of Belfast on the Little River. I have a number of concerns including the lack of clear information, and the Nordic Farms inability to answer the most basic questions presented to them during their open meetings. One such question I asked was concerning buying insurance to protect the community from potential environmental damages. The ownership was unwilling to discuss this, but later in their presentation they did mention, that they would be buying coverage only during their construction phase for their lender, but no longer would be carried once the construction was finished.

It is my understanding that Maine's Climate Action Plan states that Maine cannot reach its carbon reduction goals with business-as-usual. Nordic Aquafarms is a business-as-usual factory farm. Here are a few examples of all it will require:

- the dumping of 7.7 million gallons of nitrogen rich 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, every day into the Penobscot Bay where children swim, lobstermen fish, and the endangered Atlantic salmon and Shortnose sturgeon struggle to survive.
- the liquidation of a maturing, carbon sequestering forest, and wildlife habitat of Special Significance, carbon storing soils and wetlands of Special Significance, streams and drainages, critical shoreland wetlands,
- a massive infrastructure with a huge carbon footprint (it will equal the size of

Gillette Stadium, Fenway Park, and two TD Gardens),

- eight diesel generators each with a 67 foot smokestack,
- a cement plant,
- alterations to Route 1 and at least 5 years of construction and
- unknown amounts of noise and odor,
- 1,250 gallons of fresh water a minute, the use of so much electricity that the existing grid cannot sustain the demand that equals that of Belfast, Northport, Lincolnville, Camden, Rockport and Rockland combined.

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, 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.

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 better aquaculture systems exist that require significantly less energy, recycle all of their waste, and do not entail the antibiotics, pesticides and caustic cleaners Nordic requires.

Nordic has not shown that they have the financial capacity to build and maintain a \$500 million project.

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.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I can always be reached at (305)785-6600.  
738 Shore Road, Northport, Me 04849

Sincerely,



Doug S. Miska