

## Burke, Ruth A

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**From:** Bonnie Rukin <bonnierukin@zwi.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 4:27 PM  
**To:** DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms  
**Subject:** Nordic Farms is a liability not an asset

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Dear members of the Department of Environmental Protection and Board of Environmental Protection.

As a resident of Camden, with a long history of many personal and professional connections in nearby Belfast, I value the human, cultural, and natural resources that the city offers. As the leader of a 10-year-old statewide network focused on building a local healthy food economy, I am passionate about regenerative principles that speak to creating and supporting locally owned and operated food businesses on land and sea, businesses that are appropriately scaled to the communities that they serve, and that hold dear the interconnectedness of all living systems and their well being.

For many years, our work has been daunting but impactful, as we regularly meet the challenges of a dominant system defined by industrialization and multi-national corporate power and money. Factory farms remain part of this dominant system, and whether they are on land or sea, they do not fit a regenerative food model. Nordic Farms is a factory farm and has not demonstrated any hints of regenerative principles. I am clear that Nordic Farms would not be an asset, in any form, to Maine, and to the living systems that we must strive to maintain and enhance in our communities.

I heartily recommend denying any permits that empower to embark on a system of irreparable damage to the environment and surrounding communities. Thank you, Bonnie Rukin