

## Burke, Ruth A

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**From:** pappy samway <pappy\_samway@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2020 2:50 PM  
**To:** DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms  
**Subject:** a Bayside summer resident's opposition to the proposed aquafarm salmon factory

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Ladies & Gentlemen,

As a Bangor-born individual who's family first started renting cottages in Bayside in the early 1940s and eventually purchased a cottage there, I vividly remember seeing the chicken guts flowing past the swimming dock a few or several times a week. During summer vacations from college I worked the boats at Jarka & Sprague, and saw how the farmers and fishermen would love whenever the boats came in, as the docks paid so much more than they would make otherwise. So I do understand why many in Belfast and the surrounding areas would like to see their economy bolstered by this new industry. But is it really doing that, and at what price?

It's 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 which 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, and adopt innovative, creative technologies and systems that drastically lower greenhouse gas emissions, and protect the natural world. Protecting 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.

I've been told 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 and our extended Bayside families' concerns.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Samway  
cell: 786-367-3570

