

Dear X, [You will place here the name of whoever you are writing to, or the DEP, or the Belfast Planning Board]

I'm David White, a resident of Sandwich, NH. Between 1972 and 1998 I lived in Southwest Harbor and Bremen, Maine. I care deeply about the integrity of the fisheries along the Maine coast, and about those Maine residents whose livelihoods are connected to the ocean and to fishing sustainably.

I am writing to you about the Nordic Aquaculture Farms salmon factory being proposed in the town of Belfast on the Little River. I have a number of concerns, including the following significant issues.

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, and critical 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,
- 5 years of construction,
- unknown amounts of noise and odor,
- 1,250 gallons of fresh water a minute (657 million gallons per year),
- the use of as much electricity is used by the towns 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 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Nordic's approach is an outdated model based on receiving a "license to pollute."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. Fully closed systems are the future, and they represent a win-win for Maine.

Maine should choose to support corporations using these fully closed systems that will guarantee that local lobstering and fishing businesses, as well as small-scale aquaculture ventures, and recovering wild fish populations, are protected from pollution.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

David F. White