

Sinclair, Dylan

From: Steve Byers <stevejbyers@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2019 4:41 PM
To: SLG
Subject: LD 620

Dear Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee,

I am writing in support of LD 620. I am a small business owner in Belfast Maine and resident of Waldo, ME. Our young family of four has been concerned about the impacts of land-based aquaculture on our local waters and land as well as the global impact the industry will have on dwindling supply chains of marine life in order to feed their operations. They claim they are more sustainable but that is not backed by scientific research nor common sense. Why harvest fish from the ocean that would feed people in Ecuador and Peru in order to feed bigger fish growing on land that will be sold to rich people in America. It is not common sense and the science just doesn't support it.

Additionally, I would like to bring your attention to a recent news article in Nova Scotia where 600,000 salmon in 2 land-based fish farms were killed last spring due to a virus in the tanks. Being that Nordic Aqua farms proposes to have 10xs that amount of fish, I wonder what would such a loss look like to employees and that business should it exist in Belfast. Here is a link to the news article: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-infectious-salmon-anemia-1.4557629>

Please consider the following economic equation. The average salmon fillet weighs 4 lbs. Two fillets per salmon is 8lbs per fish. So if the Nova Scotia facilities lost 600,000 fish (each with a potential 8lbs. of meat) then totally, they lost 4.8 million lbs. (600k fish x 8lbs) of salmon meat for market. The cost of commercial farm raised salmon is about \$8. Multiply that by 4.8 million pounds of fish, and you get \$38.4 million. Can you tell me what business in Belfast could lose \$38.4 million? And how about 10x that amount of fish, which is what NAF is proposing? Their loss would be \$384 million. That would be a massive economic loss.

Please, I urge your vote for common sense. I urge your vote to reflect the reality that this new and exciting opportunity is only exciting to the wealthy investors and corporations that do not value the long term health of our planet nor do they value the long term health of our community and this ocean we all live near.

Please pass LD 620.

Thank you,

Steve Byers

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