

Sinclair, Dylan

From: liscoe@roadrunner.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 7:47 PM
To: SLG; ACF
Cc: ErinHerbig@legislature.maine.gov

Dear Legislators,

This e-mail is in support of LD 620/HP 448. I'm sure you're all aware that within the past year, Nordic Aqua Farms has purchased property in the City of Belfast and has applied for permits to build the largest land based salmon aqua farm in the world. This facility has the potential to cause grave risks to our environment - negatively adding to global climate change and harming the Penobscot River and Bay. Not far from Belfast, in the Town of Bucksport, Whole Oceans will also be building a land based salmon facility that will be smaller than NAF. Also, there has been some discussion indicating that additional farms may be built along Maine's Midcoast.

These farms need law(s) that will regulate and protect the Penobscot River/Bay. LD 620 will require that the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry will license these facilities. Licenses can be denied and be revoked if these aqua farms cause unreasonable risks to indigenous marine and freshwater life whether the risks are accidental or intentional.

Another important section of the Bill requires annual monitoring. Additionally, two other Commissioners from Marine Resources and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will weigh in on the risk factors, further supporting and strengthening protection of the Bay. Additionally, LD 620 requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry to factor in all the wastewater and probable pollution from other aqua farm operations discharging into the same body of water when considering the licensing, etc.

Another positive factor of this Bill is that DACF staff person - the State Veterinarian - has a much broader mandate to prevent impacts that would include various levels of hormones and other biochemical releases not examined by the Department of Environmental Protection.

These land based fish farms, especially, Nordic because of its size, are new to Maine. Many residents will be effected by the varying aspects of NAF from the depletion of groundwater, compromising wells and drinking water to the potential of warming the Bay with effluence in Belfast, Lincolnville, and Northport. According to Nordic and scientists, the unnamed components of the fish feed and the rest of the ingredients in the effluence will remain stagnated for about 14 days because of the limitation of the currents in this part of the Bay.

With so much at stake for our communities, I appreciate your support for LD 620. This Bill will help protect our valuable Bay and River.

It will help protect the properties bordering the Bay and the people who depend on the Bay for their livelihood and recreation.

Phyllis Coelho,
Belfast