

**PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DIRK S. FAEGRE
ON BEHALF OF THE FISH ARE OKAY
IN THE MATTER OF NORDIC AQUAFARMS, INC., APPLICATIONS
TFAO 2 (Faegre statement with attachment)**

WITNESS BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS:

My name is Dirk Faegre. My wife and I own property at 46 Herrick Road in Belfast, which is less than a mile from Nordic Aquafarms' proposed salmon farm. The location of our home in proximity to the Nordic project site is indicated on the attached map for your convenience.

I am testifying today on behalf of The Fish Are Okay. This is a citizen-based nonprofit organization that has put considerable effort over the past year into keeping our neighborhood (as well as other concerned citizens in Belfast and surrounding communities) up-to-date on issues and actions related to the Nordic project.

As one who will be directly affected by Nordic's actions, I very much appreciate this opportunity to testify before the Maine Board of Environmental Protection. Let me say from the onset that absent the expertise, regulatory authority, scrutiny and ongoing watchdog responsibilities of this Board, I would likely be strongly opposed to the Nordic project. I would not take such a risk based on my own capabilities. I am capable of evaluating the project's positive benefits as measured by an increased local tax base, educational possibilities and job opportunities. I am far from qualified to evaluate the technical details of the environmental impacts that will result from Nordic's science and engineering, and so I am deeply grateful for the work of this Board toward protection of my property.

My testimony will also reflect my growing confidence in Nordic Aquafarms as a "good neighbor". My impression to date is that the owners and staff of Nordic have been proactive, thorough and trustworthy in dealing with property owners who are willing to engage. Assuming the details of the project pass muster with the BEP and with the Belfast Planning Board, I am in support of Nordic's efforts overall -- and particularly grateful for the time they have taken to respond to my personal concerns.

SITE/NRPA APPLICATIONS WITH RESPECT TO WATER USAGE -- GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER WITHDRAWALS INCLUDING POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO EXISTING USES SUCH AS NEARBY WELLS:

As I stated, I live less than a mile from Nordic's project site. My concern was about the relationship of Nordic's needs for water supply commitments: whether these plans could be considered a "safely available" supply of fresh water from my perspective. In other words, would there be danger of my well going dry and/or affect the quality of our water supply? That thought was of great concern to me and needed to be answered accurately.

However, Nordic, without my pressing them at all, called me and asked if they could install electronic monitoring equipment in my drilled well. I said, sure, of course. They wanted to see what effect pumping water would have in the area for those consumers with drilled wells. Once the equipment was installed, Nordic tested over quite a long period of time with technicians coming to my property regularly to download the electronic data captured. Nordic's professional hydrologist met with me to explain the results of their pumping tests.

Throughout the testing period Nordic's people were exceptionally professional and helpful. It wasn't good enough for them to simply say, "It looks okay". They went the further step in providing a signed letter to me (without a request from me) that commits Nordic to assuring the water in my well will remain satisfactory in both quality and quantity. And if not, Nordic's commitment to me is that they'll make it good. That includes connecting me to the Belfast Water District if need be.

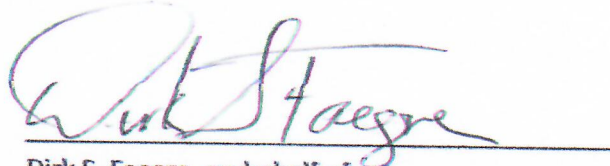
The equipment Nordic's hydrologist used, and the data and commitments they provided to me, were impressive. I was particularly pleased that my experience with Nordic was one among many property owners in the area with whom the company has been proactively working.

This is the kind of company I want to see operating in our community. Nordic Aquafarms and I are a good many steps down the path toward a lasting, trusting, cooperative relationship. If their applications for licensing are similarly responsive to the Board's scrutiny, I look forward to completion of the salmon farm as a valuable asset in our community.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I affirm that my testimony is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

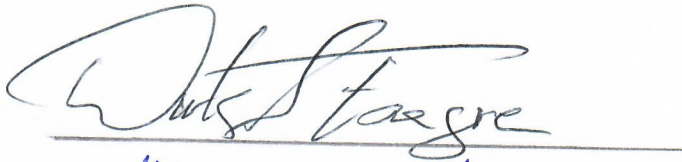
By:

Date: December 13, 2019



Dirk S. Faegre, on behalf of
The Fish Are Okay

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Alison M. Applegate 12/16/19

Alison M. Applegate
Notary Public, State of Maine
My Commission Expires June 13, 2020





Nordic Aquafarms

Garber - Faegre
residence

Belfast Water District

Northport Ave

LITTLE RIVER CHURCH

Perkins Rd

Tozier St

Hazeltine Rd

Seaside Dr

Herrick Rd

ods Rd

