

From: [Andrea C. Maker](#)
To: [Johnson, Heather](#); [Keliher, Patrick](#); [Abello, Thomas](#); [Macaluso, Melissa](#)
Subject: State of Maine support for RAS and Whole Oceans
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Attachments: [Mills Support RAS Letter\[11904843v1\].DOCX](#)

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Hi,

Thanks very much for the meeting tomorrow with Whole Oceans. I see three parts to the meeting:

1. The MUBEC decision is a major deal for Whole Oceans. The design team is waiting in the wings for this one. The potential investors see this as a critical signal from the state on its willingness to support RAS. They are very eager to learn about progress on that front.
2. They want to hear how the state has been supportive of RAS and WO. Please recall that owners and investors have changed, so memories may not all be the same. While I have told them all this over time, hearing it from you tomorrow will be very positive. The actions below demonstrate this:
 - Upon the introduction of this project, DMR amended its regulations (Chapter 24) to allow for the importation of non-native Atlantic salmon, which was prohibited prior to the amendments. The Department subsequently issued detailed guidance on requirements to be met to secure an egg import permit.
 - DMR issued Whole Oceans a five-year Land-Based Aquaculture facility license, which typically only is issued annually, to provide longer term predictability. This license term is coterminous with the Waste Water Discharge License, which by federal law, can only be issued for 5 year terms.
 - Last year, Governor Mills sent a letter to Jacob Bartlett expressing her support for the development of RAS in Maine. I don't have the final copy, but a draft of it is attached. I think she amended it some, but this will provide the gist.
 - The Department of Economic and Community Development launched a website - [DECD Land Based Aquaculture](#) as the "Right Fit for Maine" and conducted a social media campaign promoting the benefits of developing RAS in Maine.
 - The State's 10-year economic development plan spotlights aquaculture as one of four top priorities for economic growth.
3. The potential investors and the current investor, view land-based aquaculture as farming, and believe it should fall under the Dept of Agriculture. They don't have the history with Maine that I've had and I have the utmost respect for DMR and the support its shown over the years. The investors believe that if RAS were viewed as agriculture, the MUBEC exemption would have been clear. I think this bears more conversation and discussion, but for tomorrow, if to the extent you're able to say that you're willing to

learn more about how Maine's regulations compare to other states where RAS is developing, and to engage in a discussion about the regulatory regime for RAS, and to work toward making it rational, consistent with federal regulations and to develop a "best practices" regulatory framework, that would provide the assurances they are seeking at this time.

Thanks again,

Andrea

Andrea Cianchette Maker PIERCE ATWOOD LLP	157 Capitol Street Suite 3 Augusta, ME 04330 PH 207.791.1101 FAX 207.629.5955	Merrill's Wharf 254 Commercial Street Portland, ME 04101 PH 207.791.1100 FAX 207.791.1350
amaker@PierceAtwood.com	BIO ▸	
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