



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

May 12, 2020

Jacob Bartlett, CEO
Whole Oceans, LLC
2 Union Street
Suite 500
Portland, ME 04101

Dear Mr. Bartlett,

Maine's natural resources are its greatest asset. For generations, our natural resource-based industries have formed the backbone of our economy. Fishing is one of these traditional industries, and at its foundation are the hard-working men and women who have made a living on our oceans for many generations.

Thank you for your investment in our state and your commitment to providing a healthy and sustainable food source using environmentally protective technology.

The emergence of land-based aquaculture is an opportunity to evolve, diversify and strengthen this industry. My administration strongly supports land-based aquaculture and these critical investments in Maine's communities, especially those like Bucksport with historical industrial uses that can now be transformed into today's economic drivers. Your investment reuse of this former industrial site stands as a model for other opportunities across Maine.

Land-based aquaculture is growing rapidly in the U.S. as the demand for seafood continues to rise. Maine can benefit from the latest advancements as we diversify one of our heritage industries. We can take a leadership role in this emerging industry on a global scale, becoming an important part of the sustainable food solution and protecting the long-term sustainability of our wild-caught fisheries.

Our ten-year Economic Development Strategy identifies the strategic importance of sustainable aquaculture in Maine and our state is well positioned. Land-based aquaculture has the potential to bring high value jobs to areas of our state where they are scarce. It will also infuse significant investment dollars and tax revenue into our state, reaching far beyond the locations where these facilities are based. This is good news for our state, our economy and our environment.

As Governor, my administration is committed to supporting new technologies that employ Maine's unique assets in our heritage industries and provide opportunities for the youth entering Maine's workforce to engage in global technological advancements. I am pleased with your commitment to producing a food source that honors the Maine brand by both utilizing and protecting Maine's waters through the use of a land-based recirculating aquaculture system (RAS). These state-of-the-art, high-tech systems circulate clean, cold water through systems that sustainably raise fish and engage elaborate filtration that removes and sanitizes the discharges.



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Several of my commissioners and I have had the pleasure of meeting you and Dale Reich, in your capacity as the principals of Whole Oceans, LLC. We are excited that you have identified the former paper mill site in Bucksport, Maine for your project. This development will engage existing infrastructure and help reinvigorate the town of Bucksport. We look forward to joining you in your ground-breaking ceremony later this year.

Meanwhile, my administration will continue to work closely with all interested parties to pursue land-based aquaculture as a pillar of our new innovation economy.

Thank you for your interest in helping develop the future of fish farming in Maine.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor



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