

December 5, 2024

Dr. Taegan McMahon
44 Pinelock Dr.
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Ledyard Planning and Zoning Commissioners
Liz Burdick, Ledyard Director Land Use and Planning Committee
Ledyard, CT.

Dear Commissioners and Ms. Burdick,

I am writing with extremely strong opposition to the work proposed by Cashman/GFI in a quarry in Gales Ferry. I have several strong concerns and because of this I am completely opposed to the implementation of their proposal.

As a parent I strongly oppose the proposed work. I am raising three children in the Gales Ferry. I chose Gales Ferry because I wanted to raise my children in this beautiful little wooded town. The community is lovely and the natural surroundings are beautiful and incredibly important. We were drawn here by the trees and the woods and love the proximity to the schools and stores etc. The proposed quarry work would 1) decrease the quality of the wooded areas that we use for hiking and recreation, 2) decrease noise quality in the area, 2) significantly increase air pollution.

More specifically, the work proposed by Cashman would dramatically diminish the quality of the environment of our town. People come to Ledyard and Gales ferry to go hiking and to enjoy the natural spaces in our town. The history of this land should not be ignored either. The native groups that lived on this land took care of this land far before we developed these towns and their legacy of stewardship should not be ignored. If we allow an outside company to further destroy our natural spaces this town will not be a desirable place for people to come and will not be a safe place for people to live.

Not only would this work significantly damage the quality of the environment that we are surrounded by and all of the local hiking trails would be impacted but it would also reduce the noise and air quality of the town. The quarry work is noisy and diminishes the peaceful quality of the local forests. People go to the woods because they want to experience the sounds of the nature, not the blasting noises from a quarry.

The quarry work will also significantly **increase the dust in the air, which will reduce air quality and directly impact the residents' health.** As a parent I am extremely concerned about the air quality for my developing children. If the children are breathing in quarry related dust it has the strong potential to diminish their quality of life and increase risk of lung related illness. Our 9 year and I both have asthma and the dust will make it even more difficult for us to maintain clear functioning lungs. We have the fundamental right to live in a place with clean air. No one in our town should be exposed to reduced air quality from quarry related dust. I would like to acknowledge that we already experience some of this from the current quarry work. This

new proposed quarry work would turn this town into an extremely undesirable and potentially dangerous place to live for many folks. Our children deserve to grow up in a town with clean air.

As a Gales Ferry home owner I strongly oppose the proposed work. We feel the impact of the current quarry work. Our entire house shakes when they are blasting and we very reasonably have worries about the structural integrity of our house foundation and chimney. We have contacted the company and had very little support or communication about the shaking/vibrations we've experienced. We take record of the blasts when we feel them and will act accordingly if these vibrations and blast damage our home or property. No one should have to live in fear that their home will be damaged so that a company in their town can make money. This is not a fair burden to put on the residents of this town. Additionally, one of the desirable parts of living in Gales Ferry is that it is a small town. We have already seen an increase in traffic related to the current quarry work and the new work proposed will significantly increase that traffic even more. The traffic can be absolutely horrible depending on the time of day and would again an increase in this quarry related effect would make this a non-desirable place to live.

As a scientist and ecologist I strongly oppose the proposed work. I am a research scientist who studies Ecology and I am Associate Professor of Biology at Connecticut College. My PhD in Ecology gives me the expertise to say that the work proposed by Cashman/GFI would irrevocably damage the local surrounding wooded area. The beautiful woods of Gales Ferry and Ledyard, which are part of our local native peoples' heritage, would be devastated and would not be able to recover. Destroying the natural areas for profit would devastate the quality of the environment in this area and would diminish the beauty and integrity of our environment. The natural spaces around us are not just there for our entertainment. As many of us live on properties with wells the quality of the surrounding ecosystem impacts the quality of our water. The ecosystem provides us protection from disease, the more diverse the surrounding ecosystem the less risk of disease we experience. As stated, the environment is not just for entertainment it provides us services that we cannot replace if it is destroyed.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Dr. Taegan McMahan, PhD.