

**From:** [vivian zoe](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Burdick](#); [Sen. Osten, Catherine](#); [Doug Kelley](#); [Gales Ferry District](#); [andy.horowitz@uconn.edu](#); [amanda@akculturalplanning.com](#)  
**Subject:** Gales Ferry Intermodal  
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Dear Ms. Burdick - as a new year is upon us, I wish to reiterate concerns I shared at the end of 2023. To wit:

The commercial enterprise, Massachusetts-based Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting has applied for permits to blast away rock that comprises most of an important historic site. Known as Mount Decatur, the hill hard by the Thames River is where, in the War of 1812, American Naval officer Commodore Stephen Decatur managed to foil a British defeat.

Trapped by the British blockade of the Thames, Decatur thwarted the enemys' efforts from a promontory there where he realized he could anticipate any attack. The State of Connecticut's Historical Commission and State Archaeologist have both deemed the site important and worthy of preservation. Much of the evidence of what took place there over two centuries ago remains.

I speak from the perspective of an historian and museum professional, but I also live within a mile or so of the site and know that any blasting there will also literally destroy the quality of life for myself and my neighbors.

There is a quarry nearby on Baldwin Hill road, the trap rock from which is being used to support construction at the State Pier in New London. When the blasts there occur, my entire house shakes and I am startled out of my wits.

I am hoping that you will consider this issue with the gravity it deserves. I believe Cashman is hoping to acquire State of Connecticut and U.S. government contracts. These should not be approved. The use of Mount Decatur should be limited to passive recreation and scholarly study.

Thank you very much for your attention.  
Sincerely,  
Vivian F. Zoë