

## Roxanne Maher

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**From:** Bruce Edwards <bruce@trvmedia.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2025 9:19 AM  
**To:** Kevin Blacker  
**Subject:** RE: FOIA Complaint against Gales Ferry District

Good morning Mr. Blacker,

Today is a snow day for schools in Ledyard. I have to wonder if, in the future, we will be facing “Dust Days” at some of our schools due to legitimate health concerns? Who will pay most dearly for them? Answer: The students.

No matter who you are, or where you are, when you are trying to decide for others, you should have a personal and ethical, and in some cases legal, obligation to know the facts and understand the consequences of your actions. It requires effort. Start with, “What if it were me?” Mr. Blacker, I believe that by your own self-serving mandate, you completely missed the boat on this. I think it would be a safe bet that if any company were to come from afar, disrupt your farm with toxic dust, threats to the health of yourself, family and farm, create excessive noise, block your driveway with heavy traffic, devalue your property, impede your opportunity to educate yourself and work and live in the reasonably safe and peaceful environment that you chose to live and invest in, you might have a different take on all of this quarry stuff. You might actually even feel threatened. You are a farmer, a protector of the land, how do you not understand opposition to the quarry? Is it only because your farm is not here by the proposed quarry, and you may very well have other motivations that draw you away from your ethical responsibilities?

Think of it this way: Your covert acquisition and unfavorably used email list is remarkably short of your perceived “enemy” list. Viable estimates of indicated quarry opposition based on internet responses and live involvement, could easily reach 1000. This would constitute roughly 15% of Gales Ferry Village residents and 7% of Ledyard residents, churches and businesses that are unified in objection to the quarry. If a quarry gets in, the number will surely grow dramatically, presenting massive \$ expenses to Ledyard as a whole. That number is actually quite extraordinary, and historically, by far the greatest opposition to a P&Z “commercial/industrial” application in Ledyard since zoning began. 250+ physically showing up at a P&Z meeting! I do not think a Town budget meeting ever drew that much opposition. Also historically, this Town almost certainly has not seen such opposition efforts garnered since Commodore Decatur himself, opposed another invasion. What irony.

On the other hand, generous estimates of less than 10 quarry supporters, outside of the Cashman employees and subcontractors, have been noted. How many of them live here? A single person clapping at a public hearing does not exactly establish a movement. I honestly know of not one “quarry opposer,” that you have persuaded to flip based on your unsubstantiated, and remarkably hypocritical, accusations. FYI: The quarry opposition includes conservatives, liberals, religious, non-religious, young to elderly, educators, business owners and operators, and many of both high and low educational history. That, in itself, speaks profoundly.

Mr. Blacker, your singular clap of hands in support of Cashman’s effort to destroy history and profit greatly on our backs is well noted, but it is not working for you because, if you have actually presented a viable quarry supportive fact, it is shielded from view by a thick blanket of noise and blasphemy. Your uniform precedes you. You do not have to be popular but correct would be nice.

I have been a resident and/or property business owner in Ledyard since 1965 (60 years). I have been employed directly by Ledyard, been a citizen engaged in many Town activities and, in my voluntary role as chairperson of the CTACSC, I helped engineer thousands of dollars of grant money to SE CT Towns, including Ledyard, for audio and video equipment that enables citizens to virtually attend, and even review, Town Government and Education

activities. I care deeply about this town and try hard to contribute my time positively. That may sometimes come as an objection. However, those facts do not make me better than any other resident or give me more rights or power, but it does speak to experience. I have a serious track record of supporting farming efforts in SE CT. I am not against dredging of even quarries per se, but location, function, purpose, legality, and public harm vs benefit, command the process. I urge you, for your own sake as a farmer and businessperson, if you want to drive your point home, to get off the gas and pay more attention to the steering wheel and brakes. Attempts at conspiracy theories, intimidation, and so-called strong man techniques will, and have already, only achieved alienation and loss of respect. We have not forgotten your objections to Cashman's efforts on a GFI contaminated dredge spoil treatment facility. Also, if you care to invest in a little more reasoning, if a company seems willing to barge in, invest millions of dollars to fundamentally invade, disrupt, destroy, and discard a proven, enviable community just in pursuit of their own profit, can you really trust them to take care of you?

Until you offer reasonable information/opinion, respectfully presented, I ask that you remove me from your mailing list. Have a pleasant day.

All the Best,  
Bruce