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

December 18, 2024

Re: Strong Opposition to the Proposed Quarry in Gales Ferry

Dear Commissioners and Ms. Burdick,

I write with deep frustration and profound disappointment in opposition to the Cashman/GFI application proposing a quarry in Gales Ferry. It is unimaginable that such an intrusive, disruptive, and harmful operation could even be considered within a community so rich in history, character, and residential stability.

This proposal disregards every principle of good governance, environmental stewardship, and public health. The notion that blasting operations — coupled with dust, noise, vibrations, and heavy truck traffic — could occur mere miles from schools, homes, and historic landmarks defies reason and sound judgment. To say it would deteriorate the quality of life for Gales Ferry residents is an understatement.

I urge you to consider:

- **Health Impact:** Fine particulate matter from blasting is a known health hazard. How can the town subject children in nearby schools to such dangers?
- **Environmental Destruction:** Mount Decatur is a geographic and historic asset — not a commodity to be blasted apart and sold off.
- **Property Devaluation:** No homeowner in their right mind would tolerate the noise, disruption, and property value losses that will accompany years of blasting.
- **Community Reputation:** Allowing such a project would irreparably tarnish Gales Ferry's character and turn a once-proud village into a cautionary tale.

To approve this application would be a grave dereliction of duty. Commissioners, you are entrusted to protect this community, not facilitate its harm. I implore you to deny this request outright and demonstrate your commitment to the well-being of Gales Ferry's residents.

Sincerely,
Charles Peterson