

Clark Peterson
164 Military Highway
Gales Ferry, CT 06335
(860) 389-2599

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

December 18, 2024

Re: Opposition to Proposed Quarry – Gales Ferry

Dear Commissioners and Ms. Burdick,

I write with grave concern and a sense of disbelief regarding the proposed quarry project by Cashman/GFI. This application represents an affront to the values, safety, and well-being of the residents of Gales Ferry, and I find it unfathomable that such an injurious proposal could be entertained.

As someone who grew up in Gales Ferry and had hoped to raise my own children here, sending them to the same schools I attended, I now find myself questioning that dream. Approving this proposal would expose my future children to serious **health and safety hazards**. The fine dust, noise, and relentless vibrations caused by blasting operations present risks no responsible parent could ignore. Subjecting them to such dangers would amount to child abuse, and I would have no choice but to sell my home and relocate to a town where officials prioritize the well-being of their residents.

The quarry's impact does not stop there. The influx of heavy trucks carrying material from the site presents another alarming safety risk. These trucks will travel on roads near our **elementary and middle schools**, increasing the potential for collisions — especially with school buses full of children. Such an accident would be catastrophic, and this risk is not theoretical; it is the natural consequence of years of quarry operations in a populated area.

This project violates the core tenets of your zoning responsibilities:

- **Public Health:** Silica dust is a known health hazard. How can this town allow children and residents to breathe toxic air?
- **Property Values:** The noise, truck traffic, and environmental degradation will devastate home values and drive families away.
- **Community Character:** Blasting apart Mount Decatur for profit erases not only a natural and historic landmark but the very character of Gales Ferry itself.

Commissioners, you have the power to prevent irreparable harm to this village. I implore you to consider the people you serve — families like mine who have long called Gales Ferry home and hoped to build their future here. Do not let this quarry destroy our town's safety, beauty, and reputation.

I strongly urge you to reject this proposal and protect the residents who depend on you to act in their best interest.

Respectfully,
Clark Peterson