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January 2, 2026

Liz Berdick, Town Planner
Town of Ledyard
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339

cc: Land Use Committee, Chairman

Dear Ms. Berdick,

I am writing in my capacity as The Town of Ledyard Historic Commission's Director of Archaeological Research and Preservation. I am also a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) with more than 20 years of cultural preservation experience. This letter provides a brief statement regarding the historical and archaeological significance of the 4.4-acre parcel located at 1025 Colonel Ledyard Highway, known as the Spicer Homestead. This letter reflects my referral for the Spicer Homestead site to be submitted as part of the Town's review of historic archaeological properties for inclusion in the Connecticut Historic Resources Inventory.

The Spicer Homestead parcel meets the criteria for historical significance under Connecticut's historic preservation framework due to its direct association with early colonial settlement patterns, documented 18th-century land use, and its potential 17th-century occupation. Probate and land records identify a dwelling, orchard, and barn belonging to John Spicer (4th) on this property by 1769, and documentary evidence suggests the site may also represent the first homestead of Peter Spicer, established on land granted to him in 1693. The parcel contains intact archaeological features—including cellar holes, a possible center-chimney fall, a stone well, stone walls, and a stone-walled paddock—along with a glacial erratic known in Spicer family oral tradition as "Spicer's Rock." These elements collectively represent a well-preserved agrarian landscape with high research potential and strong integrity, consistent with the significance standards outlined by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office.

The attached maps illustrate the parcel boundaries that best encompass the surviving historic landscape and the original homestead foundation. Protecting this defined area will ensure the preservation of the core archaeological features and their surrounding context, allowing the Town to safeguard the most meaningful and intact portion of the Spicer family's early farmstead.

Sincerely,

Ammie M Chittim, Ph.D., R.P.A.

Director of Research and Preservation
Ledyard Historic Commission