

Roxanne Maher

From: Ryan Landry <rlandry@escrec.org>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 6:06 PM
To: Roxanne Maher
Subject: Maintain Full Tax Exemption for 100% Permanently Disabled Veterans

Dear Members of the Ledyard Town Council,

As the Veteran Representative for the Town of Ledyard, I write with respect for the responsibility you carry, and the fiscal stewardship entrusted to you. I also write with clarity and conviction regarding the proposal to cap the property tax exemption afforded to veterans rated 100% Permanent and Total (P&T) disabled due to service-connected conditions.

I am originally from Ledyard. My family has raised generations here — including generations who served in the United States military. My grandfather retired from the U.S. Navy and settled here to build a life and raise a family. He raised my mother and her sister in the Highlands. He used to take me to the barbershop where Valentino's stands today. My mother attended the old elementary school across from Town Hall. These are not just memories; they are reminders of why this town matters to me.

I returned to this area and chose to reside in Ledyard over the past 12 years because of the climate this community has long fostered — one of quiet, steady support for military families and veterans. For over a century, Ledyard has supported those connected to Naval Submarine Base New London and the broader military community. That support is not loud or performative. It is part of the town's character.

Climate matters in a town such as Ledyard. It shapes why veterans choose to live here. It shapes whether they feel valued. It shapes whether families stay.

Connecticut General Statutes §12-81(83), as amended by Public Act 24-46 effective October 1, 2024, establishes a full property tax exemption for veterans determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be 100% Permanently and Totally disabled as a result of military service. The legislative intent behind this statute is unmistakable: to provide meaningful and substantive relief to those whose disabilities are permanent, total, and directly connected to their service to this country.

While municipalities maintain administrative authority in implementation, the exemption itself is not symbolic or optional in spirit. It reflects a statewide policy determination that the most severely disabled veterans deserve complete recognition through tax relief on their primary residence.

The question before the Council is not merely whether a cap is legally permissible. The more important question is whether imposing such a cap aligns with the intent of the General Assembly and with the values of the Town of Ledyard.

A 100% Permanent and Total rating reflects profound, lifelong impact — physical, psychological, and economic. These are veterans whose earning capacity, health trajectory, and quality of life have been permanently altered because of service-connected conditions. The State recognized that reality when it enacted and expanded this exemption.

Limiting that recognition through a municipal cap, risks narrowing what the legislature intended to be full and meaningful relief. Even if technically allowable, it sends a message that support for our most severely disabled veterans is conditional and the Town of Ledyard does not fully support their Veteran community, and this will make the Military and Veterans of our community feel like a number yet again.

This is not a civil rights argument. It is not a procedural objection. It is a policy and values decision.

Fiscal responsibility is critical. However, policy decisions communicate who we are as a community. The permanently and totally disabled veterans of Ledyard should feel unequivocally supported — not partially acknowledged.

I respectfully urge the Council to maintain the full exemption for veterans rated 100% Permanent and Total and to decline adoption of any measure that would cap or diminish that benefit. Doing so affirms Ledyard's commitment to honoring service, sacrifice, and the intent of Connecticut law.

Thank you for your time, your service to this town, and your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Landry

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