

Planning and Zoning Commission

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway

Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

RE: Cashman Dredging – Blasting Mount Decatur

To the Planning and Zoning Commission,

I am writing this letter to express my strong opposition to the blasting of Mt. Decatur by Cashman Dredging & Marine Contracting Co. This has been an issue to our community from the beginning of Cashman buying the property. As a Chapman Lane resident and concerned parent, the health risks and noise are of grave concern to myself and my family. Despite the fact that there may or may not be a noise concern (at this point), the health risks associated with the blasting of the rock, is a major factor in keeping this out of our community. The health risks of blasting would be the Silica dust that would travel by air to the surrounding homes. I live on Chapman Lane, in very close proximity to the blasting site, would see and feel firsthand the Silica dust (as with other factors) from the blasting. Long term effects of breathing in the Silica dust are chronic respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, inflammation of the lungs, and Silicosis. Obviously, these negative health effects on an individual would lead to other debilitating effects on the Central Nervous System and the Brain. As a father of three adult daughters, two of which will be directly affected, there isn't an option for safely blasting without affecting the Gales Ferry/Ledyard community as a whole. At this time, we don't know what else (other than the Silica dust) is in that rock. Is there radioactivity? Are there poisonous elements imbedded in the rock that could possibly get airborne into the surrounding areas? Not to mention the increased traffic, which is not specifically known how much right now will be generated. Gales Ferry and Ledyard has been an ideal place to live and raise a healthy family. The emphasis is on **healthy**. No individual or parent wants to worry about the health effects in their neighborhood or community. NOT ONE. The "unknowns" of this project is enough to stop the average, reasonable person to stop moving forward with this idea. Going to work and doing "Life" is stressful enough, why should I have to worry about the possible health hazards that this blasting will have on myself and my daughters. ***If this project is approved, do you know what the future health effects there will be?*** Noise? Air quality? Radioactivity? Traffic? Is there a good amount of certainty as to what will happen? If there are more "unknowns" than "knowns", then this application needs to be **rejected**. Also, as with the above stated reasons for NOT WANTING THE BLASTING OF MT DECATUR DONE, this application needs to be REJECTED.

Sincerely

Robert Chester

23 Chapman Lane

Gales Ferry, CT 06335