

October 23, 2022

Chairman Capon and Commissioners –

I wish to express my strong support for the Gales Ferry Intermodal business activities at Allyn's point based on three important considerations, hopefully providing reminders and further insights for others which may sway their opinions on the business development of Allyn's Point.

First, Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting is a strong company with 50 years of operation with very few newsworthy issues against it over its decades of operations. This is the company the Environmental Protection Agency hired to clean up multiple maritime Superfund sites in New York (most notably, the Gowanus Canal in New York City and the Hudson River upstate). The company's reputation within the professional maritime community is one of the highest quality, with good paying jobs, an outstanding safety record, and high quality work. This is the type of company that we as a town want to attract. This is not something you can pretend or fake; this is a reputation the founders built over five decades of consistent effort.

Second, business use of the land directly impacts revenues to the town. Businesses pay taxes and ease the burden on homeowners within the community. I, as a taxpayer and citizen, would like the opportunity to reduce my own tax burden.

Third, Cashman has a plan to develop and use the land, attracting more businesses and employment options for our citizens. For as long as I have lived here, southeastern Connecticut has been dominated by three employers: Electric Boat (EB), Pfizer, and the military. Both EB and the military are directly influenced by national politics largely outside of our local control, and as Federal monies ebb and flow to support the military, so goes the abilities of those two employers to assist our local economies. Additional businesses and industries will diversify our region, create a more resilient local/regional economy, and help us weather the whims of national politicians. This has been a goal of the communities of southeastern Connecticut since I first moved to the area in 1988, when the Cold War was winding down and the region suffered through the doldrums of that period. The Town of Preston did not support the development of the Norwich State Hospital land for movie production twenty years ago, and I consider that a colossal failure to assist the region in business development and to find meaningful, productive employment opportunities for our citizens.

For these reasons, I champion Cashman's addition to the role of Ledyard community businesses. I would not have our town make the same mistake Preston did a generation ago. Supporting

Cashman in this business move expands the regions business variety; it expands our community tax base, and bring a reputable company into our town. Decisions based around this move can bring additional good companies into our area, or can leave us struggling to find additional uses for the land another generation, like Preston. I believe supporting a good company to be in our collective best interests, and I believe you should, too.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. S. Whitney Irwin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name and address.

W. S. Whitney Irwin
Property Owner and Taxpayer
2 Winfield Way
Ledyard, CT