

Written Testimony of Jennifer Grace Kleindienst

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee

March 7, 2013

Written Testimony Concerning Governor's Bill 6360 AN ACT CONCERNING
IMPLEMENTATION OF CONNECTICUT'S COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY and
Bill 6533 AN ACT CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

Senator Duff, Representative Reed and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to address this important issue. I am writing to express my support of Bill 6533 and express concerns regarding Bill 6360.

In regards to Bill 6360, I am concerned with potential natural gas main expansions. It is important that the full range of economic and environmental impacts be taken into account when making decisions on natural gas main expansions. This analysis must take into account 1) energy savings available through efficiency, 2) impacts on consumers, and 3) the environmental and climate impacts from gas extraction, transport and use. Once all of these factors are taken into account, I do not believe that natural gas main expansion will be deemed the best option.

The environmental and health issues that surround hydraulic fracturing have been [well documented](#), and as Connecticut aims to build a 21st century energy policy, it should seek to use energy that does not harm the environment and human health. Although natural gas would be supplied by neighboring states, we cannot ignore the negative impacts extraction is having in these states. Natural gas man expansion is not a step forward, but a continuation of the status quo, which embraces temporary solutions at the expense of the long-term health of people, our economy and the planet.

With this in mind, I wish to extend my support for Bill 6533. Hydraulic fracturing waste has been associated with a wide array of negative health issues. Many fracturing fluid chemicals are known to be toxic to humans and wildlife and several are known to cause cancer. These chemicals include petroleum distillates, including kerosene and diesel fuel, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, methanol, and formaldehyde. Embracing solutions that create environmental and health problems will only create a whole new set of problems for our state. As we look forward and seek to create a sustainable and intelligent energy plan, we should embrace renewable technologies such as wind and solar, while investing in energy efficiency programs that provide efficient cost savings for consumers.

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