

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. Even though natural gas would be supplied by neighboring states, we cannot simply avoid the negative impacts extraction is having in these states. Additionally, as natural gas supplies diminish, prices will increase and fluctuate, creating the same type of price variability that has hurt heating oil customers. Natural gas main 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 consumers and the environment.

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 such as 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.

Thank you for your time.
Kate Gibbel
344 Washington
Middletown, CT