



Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

TESTIMONY FOR THE ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING, ~~March~~ 7, 2013

March

BOARD

OFFICERS

Eileen Fielding
President

James Creighton
Vice President

James McInerney
Treasurer

David Bingham
Secretary

DIRECTORS

William Anthony

Martin Mador

Sarah Martin

Dwight Merriam

David Radka

Jacqueline Talbot

Lynn Werner

Richard Windels

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Margaret Miner

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Rose Guimaraes

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Tony Mitchell

A tax-exempt
organization under
501 (c) (3) of the
Internal Revenue
Code

To: The Chairmen: Sen. Bob Duff and Rep. Lonnie Reed
And to the Members of the Committee

**RE: HB 6533 AAC Hydraulic Fracturing and
HB 6535 AA Redefining Class I Renewable Energy Sources**

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship. Our 450 members include almost all of the state's river and watershed conservation groups, representing many thousand Connecticut residents.

We are pleased to support **HB 6533 AAC Hydraulic Fracturing**. But we urge the Committee to expand the bill on the lines of the Vermont fracking law. The concept is a moratorium on fracking and disposal of fracking waste until the state has more information on whether and how this method of extracting natural gas can be done in a manner safe for water quality and public health.

I understand that DEEP is committed to support only safe practices. Many hoped that New York State would develop such safe practices. But NY has put its program on hold to investigate further. Connecticut is very unlikely to be viable site for natural gas fracking; but the possibility evidently exists. Natural gas is a relatively clean fuel. We hope it can be extracted safely. But at this time the weight of the evidence is that fracking poses the risk of devastating, irreversible contamination of groundwater. Possibly we, as a society, will have to become much more serious about reducing our use of fossil fuels, not only through efficiency but also by tempering our demand. Here's the Vermont law.

Act No. 152 (H.464). An act relating to hydraulic fracturing wells for natural gas and oil production

This act prohibits any person in the state from engaging in the practice of hydraulic fracturing for oil or natural gas and from collecting, storing, or treating wastewater from hydraulic fracturing. The act prohibits the discharge of waste from hydraulic fracturing into or from a pollution abatement facility in the state. The act requires the secretary of natural resources to report to the general assembly on or before January 15, 2015 with a recommendation on how hydraulic fracturing should be