

Testimony of Ellen McCormick of
ConnFACT
(CT Families Against Chemical Trespass)
Before the Connecticut General Assembly
Environment Committee
February 28, 2014
Testimony in support of SB#237 and BH#5308
An Act Prohibiting the Storage or Disposal of Fracking Waste in the State of Connecticut

Good afternoon legislators of our beautiful state of Connecticut!

Thank you for this opportunity to give testimony in support of Senate Bill # 237 and HB #5308.

I am Ellen McCormick, a resident of Weston, CT, an active participant with GMOfreeCT and a board member of its parent organization, ConnFACT that stands for CT Families Against Chemical Trespass. ConnFACT is comprised of thousands of people who are genuinely concerned about the health ramifications of toxic, radioactive and caustic fracking waste coming to our state.

As you may recall, we are actively interested in the health of our citizens and, in particular, those most vulnerable to toxins - women of child-bearing age and children. We are dedicated to educating the people of Connecticut and our representatives about the health and economic risks coming from toxic chemicals. We are here today to ask you to protect us from irresponsible practices that contaminate the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat. At this point we are inundated with chemicals and we don't need another source of contamination that is completely unnecessary to have in this state. Let's help our state reduce cancer causing agents to change our designation of one of the states with the highest rates of cancer.

As part of our experience as GMOfreeCT it was enlightening to see how our representatives listened and learned from us before voting on labeling for the state. You all renewed our faith in Democracy. I encourage you now to do the same for fracking waste. Our health rests in your hands.

The distinct possibility of disposing or storing fracking waste here in Connecticut is more than alarming - it is absolutely shocking! There are many horror stories about fracking's impact on people, pets and livestock around the country. What has received little publicity are the chemical cocktails that are used during fracking. They are individually highly toxic, some radioactive, others caustic and when combined can only be more dangerous.

Connecticut is in a unique position right now. We can STOP this waste coming from Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale, from being dumped into our state. That waste contains radium 226 and radium 228 - with a half-life of 1600 years. This means a leak or spill would be irreparable.

It has been suggested that we use the salty/briny waste-water for de-icing our roads in winter or as a dust control product. That would mean toxic, radioactive runoff during rain-storms into Long Island sound, our streams and lakes and would affect our agriculture, children, pets, and our real estate values. We would also pollute our air.

We cannot allow other states to dump their waste here. With water being the precious commodity it is, we should not be flirting with disaster by polluting our drinking water which could very easily happen.

Let us please learn from the mistakes of other states or contamination of natural resources and human harm are a certainty. There is no way to treat, dispose of or store toxic, radioactive and caustic fracking waste materials safely! What's more we don't have a proper designation for this particular fracking waste. It isn't considered hazardous waste yet.

If this toxic waste is allowed to be transported through our state, disposed of into injection wells or wastewater treatment plants, dumped in landfills, or even stored, we will never be able to undo the damage of spills or leaks in our lifetime. The energy industry's history of accidents is long and without regard for the citizens of any state. Let's keep Connecticut beautiful and healthy!

Don't Waste Connecticut!!

Addendum:

Fracking Waste is on its way

<https://webtop.webmail.optimum.net/http/viewattachment?clientId=1393556725102&locale&disp=attachment&accountId&folder=Fracking%20articles%20and%20materials&uid=1&part=1>

Radioactive fact Sheet

<https://webtop.webmail.optimum.net/http/viewattachment?clientId=1393459955451&locale&disp=attachment&accountId&folder=Fracking%20articles%20and%20materials&uid=54&part=1>

Road Sign Flyer

<https://webtop.webmail.optimum.net/http/viewattachment?clientId=1393459955451&locale&disp=attachment&accountId&folder=Fracking%20articles%20and%20materials&uid=55&part=1>

Attached is a statement by the Concerned Health Professionals of New York in response to the new study by Nagel et al. in *Endocrinology*.

<https://webtop.webmail.optimum.net/http/viewattachment?clientId=1393556725102&locale&disp=attachment&accountId&folder=Fracking%20articles%20and%20materials&uid=5&part=1>

Consideration of Radiation in Hazardous Waste Produced from Horizontal Hydrofracking:

<http://www.grassrootsinfo.org/pdf/whitereport.pdf>

Summary Report: Human Health Risks and Exposure Pathways of Proposed Horizontal Hydrofracking in New York State:

<http://www.grassrootsinfo.org/summaryreport.pdf>