

Testimony of Tom Swan

Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

ON SB 237, HB5308, AND SB 67

February 28, 2014

Good Afternoon Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and other members of the Environment Committee, my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the CT Citizen Action Group (CCAG). On behalf of CCAG's over 20,000 member families I want to thank you for raising SB 237 AA PROHIBITING THE STORAGE OR DISPOSAL OF FRACKING WASTE IN CT, HB 5308 AAC THE REGULATION OF FRACKING WASTE, and SB 67 AAC THE INCLUSION OF JUICES, TEAS AND SPORTS DRINKS UNDER CONNECTICUT'S BOTTLE BILL.

We applaud you for raising SB 237. Fracking waste is toxic. Industry will not even let us know what chemicals they use in the process. The people who say we can regulate it and that it could be economically beneficial remind me of the Governor of New York in my youth, Hugh Carey, when he said he would drink a glass full of PCBs to prove they were safe. That was not a wise idea then and leaving the door open to toxic fracking waste for "economic reasons" is just as bad today. We would like the language tightened to include treatment and discharge being banned and think it would be good to look at last year's proposal 6533 for possible language.

We support HB 5308 AAC the REGULATION OF FRACKING WASTE as a companion bill to SB 237, but not as a stand-alone bill because we believe it could enable waste in CT. As a companion or combined bill it would have a framework for dealing with waste transported through the state, but not allowing the very toxic waste to be stored here.

Finally, I want to express CCAG's strong support for SB 67. The Bottle Bill has been arguably the most effective solid waste reduction law CT has ever passed. Expanding it to include juices, teas, and sports drinks is not only fair it is very smart environmental policy. The industry will be making the same old tired arguments as to why the sky will fall if you pass this. It didn't fall when we passed the original bottle bill, it didn't fall when you strengthened the bottle bill and it won't fall again when you pass this bill. Please pass 67 – it is fair, it is smart, and it makes sense.

Thank you for your consideration.