

ECHO
Ecological Health Organization
PO Box 8232 Berlin CT 06037-8232
E- Mail: ECHOMCSCT@AOL.com
Ph. 570-472-0374
Website: www.homestead.com/ECHOMCSCT

2/28/2014

The Honorable Edward Meyer, Co-Chair
The Honorable Linda Gentile, Co-Chair
Environment Committee
Rm 3200 LOB
Hartford, CT 06016

Dear Senator Edward Meyer, and Representative Linda Gentile:

RE : SUPPORT AND TESTIMONY TO THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 28, 2014 on
**SB. 237 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE STORAGE OR
DISPOSAL OF FRACKING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT**

ECHO, Ecological Health Organization is providing testimony in support of
**SB 237 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE STORAGE OR DISPOSAL OF
FRACKING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT.**

Let me explain why we support this bill. Since 1992 ECHO has supported legislation to protect the health of all Connecticut's citizens from exposure to toxic chemicals in the environment. ECHO is a statewide nonprofit advocacy, support, education and referral organization for people disabled with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) and others who care about its prevention. Founded in 1992, ECHO is one of the first organizations in Connecticut linking environmental issues and public health. Over the past twenty-two years, ECHO has worked with state agencies providing them with information on the needs of citizens disabled with MCS.

As you may know, MCS is caused by repeated low level exposures to toxic chemicals, or it can be caused by a single exposure to one chemical. It is a chronic condition usually involving the central nervous system and other organ systems of the body. Symptoms of MCS include chronic fatigue, muscle and joint pain, rashes, asthma, short-term memory loss and lack of concentration, digestive and neurological problems.

Few can argue that Fracking Waste is composed of a long list of materials hazardous to human health. Fracking waste by-products can consist of radioactive waste materials as well as toxic chemicals. Both categories consist of, but are not limited to drilling mud and chemical additives, hydraulic oil and hydraulic fracturing additives and diesel fuel. **[Note- from 2013 HB 5335 which defines Fracking "Waste-By Products"]**

According to testimony provided to this committee last year by public health toxicologist David Brown, Sc.D. on Fracking Fluids, " The returning fluid not only contains the toxic chemicals that were in the fracking fluid - but when it returns to the surface it contains radioactive materials and salts that it picked up from deep inside the earth. The waste fluid sometimes also contains arsenic and radium." "Astonishingly the produced water and well cuttings which contain hazardous waste are not classified as hazardous waste due to an exemption granted by Congress to the Oil and Gas industry." He noted that the "EPA does acknowledge that these wastes could present a hazard to human health and the environment if improperly managed."

According to a U.S. committee on Energy and Commerce says, " more than 650 commonly used fracking products contain chemicals that are 'known or possible human carcinogens, regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act or listed as hazardous air pollutants."

Some of the Fracking Chemicals listed by the Pennsylvania DEP include carboxymethylhydroxypropyl guar blend, Cyclohexanes CS-2, 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-Hydrochloric Acid , Isothiazolin-3-one, 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 2,2-Dibromo-3-Nitrilopropionamide, d-Limonene - a known sensitizer of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, and Trimethyloctadecylammonium chloride.

Who is protecting the health of our citizens in Connecticut from these chemicals - radioactive materials and possible carcinogens - if Fracking waste is ever allowed to come into our state. ECHO urges the committee to support SB 237 **PROHIBITING THE STORAGE OR DISPOSAL OF FRACKING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT.**

Sincerely,

Carolyn Wysocki

President of ECHO