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**Written Testimony before the Connecticut General Assembly Environmental Committee  
February 28, 2014**

In Support of Raised Bill SB 237-  
An Act Prohibiting the Storage or Disposal of Fracking Waste in Connecticut

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and Members of the Environment Committee:

We are writing in support of SB 237, which bans the storage of fracking waste in Connecticut. Fracking is a method of extracting natural gas from deep in the ground by injecting a mixture of water, sand and chemicals under high pressure into dense rock formations such as shale, in order to crack the rock and release the gas. The gas companies have refused to identify the chemicals used in this process. A typical natural gas well takes between 2 to 5 million gallons of fluid to frack. Of that, 10 to 50 percent of the toxic fluid returns to the surface. The returning fluid not only contains the toxic chemicals that were in the fracking fluid, but it also contains salts, arsenic and radioactive materials that it picked up from deep inside the earth.

The secrecy of the natural gas companies surrounding the chemicals used makes it impossible to insure the safety of our water system or land resources. The consequences of their storage may be potentially harmful to the residents of our State. Until the gas companies fully identify and disclose the chemicals used in the process, and assure the safety of our eco systems, we believe that banning the fracking waste in Connecticut is the most appropriate and responsible action for our legislators to take. No amount of regulation, regardless of the Agency in charge, will make the people of Connecticut or our land and water safe. We are asking you to support SB 237, and ban the storage of fracking from the State.

We thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns before this Committee.

Sincerely,

Sister Mary Alice Synkewecz, RSM – Director

Sister Linda Pepe, CSJ – Associate Director