

Written Testimony of Evan Abramson, Housatonic Valley 350
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee

February 28, 2014

Concerning Senate Bill 237 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE STORAGE OR DISPOSAL OF
FRACKING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT

As a documentary filmmaker, I have traveled around the world, witnessing communities in various stages of conflict and suffering. Oftentimes, the story boils down to two things: water and land. The most basic of human needs, that of survival, cannot happen without these two resources.

Here in northwest Connecticut, we benefit from great open spaces, forests full of animal life and trees, rich biodiversity, wetlands, lakes, rivers and streams. We have spent the last thirty years cleaning up GE's mess on the Housatonic River, and every year, more and more former NYers such as myself are calling this little bit of heaven their home.

I have two young children: Luz, who is two, and Lief, who is just turning one next month. Every morning they awake to the pastel hues of sunrise over the mountains; oftentimes, we watch the deep red glow of sunset reflect across Lake Waramaug from our living room window.

This is the place my wife and I have chosen to call our home, raise our kids, invest in land, and in building community. This is the state we have trusted with our children and their fragile bodies, which are every day growing, absorbing, learning, breathing, seeing, knowing.

Any attempt by the State of Connecticut to bring in the toxic, radioactive fracking waste from other states, no matter how strictly regulated, is a recipe for disaster. All this pristine wilderness, vast still lakes and rushing rivers, all these close-knit communities, they would all be at risk: of a spill, an crash, a breach of contract, a lack of oversight or a drop of human error.

I urge you, dear Senators and Representatives, to support SB 237, an act prohibiting the storage or disposal of fracking waste in Connecticut. It's a no-brainer, and it's the only way to guarantee our protection as citizens and stewards of this planet we walk and call our home. Pennsylvania doesn't know what to do with the stuff. What makes you think that Connecticut does? There is no known method for storing or disposing of fracking waste which is foolproof. It always gets into the water; oftentimes, it's the drinking water or the swimming water. Everything returns to the Earth. Everyone knows this.

I don't know what backroom dealings are contributing to the State of Connecticut's proposed fracking regulation bill. What I do know is that the only way to guarantee the public's safety is a full, uncompromising ban.

It's your responsibility as elected leaders to serve the best interests of your constituents. It's our responsibility as citizens to hold you accountable.

I urge you to vote YES on SB 237. For the sake of our children. For your children's water and land.

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