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February 26, 2014

Testimony from the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) regarding:

SB 237	**An Act Prohibiting the Storage or Disposal of Fracking Waste in Connecticut**
HB 5308	**An Act Concerning the Regulation of Fracking Waste**
SB67	**An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill**

Sen. Ed Meyer, Rep. Linda Gentile, Chairs; and Members of the Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these bills. The Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) is a non-profit citizen's group whose mission is to preserve, protect, and restore the Farmington River and its watershed. As a river protection organization, we are concerned over the disposal of any type of hazardous waste that has the potential to contaminate our surface or groundwater resources. Likewise, as an organization that organizes river cleanups and promotes low-impact river recreation, FRWA is aware of the problems posed by excess litter in river recreation areas. Consequently,

- **FRWA strongly supports SB 237 and HB 5308.**

- **FRWA supports updates to SB67 to include more types of beverage than the three currently named in the bill.**

SB 237 is a sensible way to head off attempts to dispose of hydraulic fracturing waste fluid in our state. Though fracking waste is not produced here, there is a need to find disposal areas for fracking waste from other states, notably Pennsylvania and New York. The components of fracking waste include proprietary ingredients that are not disclosed by fracking fluid manufacturers, which is a concern in itself. Besides that, the waste is known to contain highly concentrated salts; volatile organic compounds; known carcinogens; and toxins picked up from bedrock. Fracking waste can also be radioactive. Connecticut has an extensive network of surface waters such as streams, rivers, pools, ponds and lakes, which interconnect with Connecticut's groundwater. No place in Connecticut is a suitable dumping ground for a multi-component toxic waste material that has such potential to contaminate our water supplies or pollute our water habitats. Despite a public perception that the Clean Water Act has effectively cleaned up most of our waters, water quality decline remains a serious threat. Polluted runoff and the emergence of new toxins are part of the problem. We need to head off new problems in our watersheds by prohibiting the storage or disposal of fracking waste. It's particularly important to avoid using fracking waste as a road de-icer; it would make road salt runoff more hazardous and toxic, and exacerbate its effect on our waterways.

HB5308 is the necessary companion bill that would classify used fracking fluid as toxic waste and thereby subject to regulation. Because it is not so classified at present, it remains unregulated. This loophole must be closed.

SB67 is a step forward toward a higher rate of bottle and can recycling in Connecticut. One effect of increased recycling is a reduction in litter, which would benefit our recreation areas, including river access points and riverside trails. FRWA advocates river recreation as both public health and economic benefits to the state, but the quality of the experience suffers when people are faced with discarded trash and broken bottles. The inclusion of juices, teas, and sports drinks to the Bottle Bill is definitely welcome, but there should be an incentive to recycle wine and spirit bottles as well. Why not make the bill more inclusive, and take care of more problems at once? We applaud ConnPIRG for submitting bill language in their testimony that addresses this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Fielding

Eileen Fielding
Executive Director