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Written Testimony of Toxics Action Center
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee
February 28, 2014

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the committee.

For many years, Toxics Action Center Campaigns has helped citizen groups across New England to protect public health and the environment by working to clean up hazardous waste sites, curb pesticide spraying, and reduce pollution from hazardous waste, energy facilities, and industrial facilities. In the process, we train citizens to be long-term leaders in their communities. Over the last year, we worked with residents across the state, including a group in Bridgeport that is advocating for the responsible retirement of the city's coal-fired power plant. I am writing this to encourage you to support Senate Bill No. 237: An Act Prohibiting the Storage or Disposal of Fracking Waste in Connecticut.

Fracking waste contains an alarming number of toxic and potentially radioactive components. Among these are a number of proven carcinogens and neurotoxins. This waste would be a profound threat to our health, if it were to leak while being stored or disposed of. Water in both Pennsylvania and New Mexico has already been contaminated by fracking waste. The number of people reliant on well water makes this a particular concerning prospect for residents in Connecticut.

Even well regulated disposal and storage is not full proof. There is no need to endanger Connecticut families by accepting this waste and no reason to make our state a dumping ground. Connecticut has a relatively strong record of protecting its residents from environmental health hazards. Let us keep it that way. I strongly encourage members of this committee to protect our health and the environment on which it depends by banning the storage and disposal of fracking waste.

Thank you for your time.

Jeff Butke
Community Organizer
Toxics Action Center Campaigns