

February 28, 2014

From: Roberta Silbert, MPH  
155 White Birch Drive  
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To: Honorable Members of The Environment Committee

Re: SB 237 An Act Prohibiting The Storage or Disposal of Fracking Waste In CT

I am supporting this bill for a ban on fracking waste being processed, stored, disposed of or utilized in any way in Connecticut.

From a health perspective the risk of exposure to toxic radioactive fracking waste to humans and to the environment would be catastrophic. The risk to our drinking water from runoff, containment tank corrosion, leaks or ruptures would be a disaster. We only have to look at the recent spills across the country to know of the consequences. In addition the risk to contamination of our food supply of Connecticut grown produce would add to the calamity – we can't eat money.

While I congratulate you on your ban as a step in protection, it should be noted that there is no provision for the monitoring or prohibition of radioactive gas from entering and being utilized in Connecticut. Much of the gas that would come into Connecticut from fracking contains radon, a proven carcinogen.

Radium in fracking waste has a half life of 1600 years. Do you realize what that means? It takes 1600 years for the radioactivity to be diminished by half.

Regulation is not protection enough. A ban goes a long way towards, what should be viewed as a moral obligation to future generations, to making sure that we are not leaving a toxic legacy.

Thank you,

Roberta Silbert, MPH