



2074 Park St., #210  
Hartford, CT 06106  
(860) 231-8842

[www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org](http://www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org)  
[www.facebook.com/EnvironmentConnecticut](https://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentConnecticut)

Written Testimony of Christopher Phelps, Environment Connecticut Campaign Director  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee

February 28, 2014

**Regarding HB 5308: AAC THE REGULATION OF FRACKING WASTE**

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and members of the committee: My name is Chris Phelps and I am Campaign Director for Environment Connecticut. Our organization is a nonprofit member-based environmental advocacy organization working to protect Connecticut's air, water, and natural landscape. We appreciate this opportunity to offer testimony regarding HB 5308, AAC THE REGULATION OF FRACKING WASTE

We have submitted separate testimony on SB 237 supporting a ban on toxic fracking waste storage, treatment, disposal, and discharge in Connecticut. We strongly believe that a full prohibition on such wastes in Connecticut is the best course of action for the state to take in addressing the threat posed to our environment, public health, and economy from toxic fracking wastes.

HB 5308 proposes to define wastes produced by oil, gas, and geothermal drilling activities (note: this is broader than just "fracking waste" as listed in the title of the bill) as hazardous waste for the purposes of Connecticut law. In effect, for the purpose of Connecticut law, this bill attempts to close the infamous "Bentsen Exemption" which exempts fracking and other toxic wastes produced by drilling operations from the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA.)

We believe HB 5308 is a step in the right direction, but its effect is more immediately relevant to federal law (closing of the Bentsen Exemption loophole in RCRA) than to state law in Connecticut. Fracking operations nationally produce hundreds of billions of gallons of toxic wastewater every single year. (See our [analysis](http://environmentconnecticutcenter.org/reports/ctc/fracking-numbers) in "Fracking by the Numbers" published in October, 2013 and available at <http://environmentconnecticutcenter.org/reports/ctc/fracking-numbers>.)

Environment Connecticut urges the committee and General Assembly to go beyond the step proposed in HB 5308 and enact a full prohibition on treatment, storage, disposal, and discharge of toxic fracking wastes in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony on HB 5308.

Sincerely,

Chris Phelps  
Environment Connecticut  
[cphelps@EnvironmentConnecticut.org](mailto:cphelps@EnvironmentConnecticut.org)