



Connecticut Chapter
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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Environment Committee
February 28, 2014

Testimony in Support of
SB 237 An Act Prohibiting The Storage Or Disposal Of Fracking Waste In Connecticut
In Opposition to
HB 5308 AAC The Regulation Of Fracking Waste

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

The Sierra Club is very concerned about the significant risks to human and environment health from fracking wastes, which are highly toxic. Anything drawn from the Marcellus shale is also radioactive. We strongly advise that such wastes simply not be allowed into the state. That provides us maximum protection from the hazards.

DEEP has been an effective agency in many, many ways, managing a wide range of environmental issues. However, with the historically low funding, the recent funding and personnel cuts, and the regular addition of new tasks and issues, it is struggling to effectively address its mission. HB 5308 would add yet more regulatory rule making and oversight responsibilities to an already over burdened agency.

There are no benefits to the state in any way of allowing the entry of fracking wastes, Any expectation of effective oversight is problematic. The Sierra Club advises therefore that we adopt a strategy which will ensure the problem will not arise. SB 237 will do this, but it must be amended to also prohibit processing of fracking waste. HB 5308 clearly does not offer adequate protection.

Connecticut has no shale which could yield commercially viable quantities of natural gas, so we are aware of no proposals to conduct fracking operations instate. Much of the natural gas we import is extracted from the Marcellus shale ridge in Pennsylvania. New York is now considering allowing fracking operations. So we are not at risk of fracking in Connecticut. We are, however, at risk of the import of fracking wastes for processing and/or disposal.

Fracking operations produce millions of gallons of contaminated wastes. The waste water can be partially cleaned and reused, but eventually there must be a disposal strategy. Fifty years of development of environmental protection has taught us that the negative consequences of any activity must be taken into account in conjunction with the activity. Otherwise the costs of pollution remediation fall on society as a whole. The cost of the product must include the costs

of remediating the pollution produced. In economic terms, this is called internalizing the costs. Disposal of the fracking wastes must be concomitant with the extraction of the natural gas produced. Therefore, the extraction operation in Pennsylvania must incorporate handling of the wastes.

The Sierra Club advises that dropping of HB 5308 and passage of SB 237 as amended, is a far, far better way to address the problem and protect the state from the environmental and human health damage these fracking wastes would bring.