

**Joint Testimony of Sam and Jill Callaway
Before the Environment Committee**

Regarding

S.B. 237 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE STORAGE OR DISPOSAL OF FRACKING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT
H.B. 5308 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FRACKING WASTE
H.B. 5307 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF BOOMS FOR THE RETENTION OF CERTAIN OILS OR PETROLEUM AND REVISING CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

Submitted by
Sam and Jill Callaway
February 28, 2013

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 237, House Bill 5308, and House Bill 5307. All three bills have important implications for our ability to protect Long Island Sound and our groundwater from toxic chemicals and petroleum products. We support SB 237 which prohibits the storage or disposal of fracking waste in Connecticut. We oppose HB 5308, which would regulate but not prevent Connecticut from becoming a disposal site for hydrofracking waste. We also oppose HB 5307, which would expose our harbors to preventable oil and gas spills.

A few of our concerns:

1. What possible justification can there be to permitting the importation of hydrofracking Hazardous waste materials into Connecticut from out of state? The storage and/or disposal of these materials would pose a serious threat to Connecticut's fragile environment and groundwater supply. Those of us who depend upon that groundwater for our potable water could be seriously harmed. Why is this even being considered?
2. It is the sworn obligation of all Connecticut elected officials to protect the Health, Safety and Welfare ("HS&W") of the electorate. The passage of either HB 5308 or HB 5307 would move the State in the opposite direction.
3. Connecticut should not become a dumping ground for gas companies in other states.
4. We are concerned that ships spilling oils and other petroleum products in our harbors during loading and offloading could harm marine life in Long Island Sound (HB5307)

SB 237 AA, Prohibiting the Storage or Disposal of Fracking Waste in Connecticut, is a strong and common-sense measure that will protect our surface and groundwater from contamination by toxic hydrofracking fluid. While Connecticut's geology isn't suited to this method of extracting gas from the ground, it is used in neighboring states like New York and Pennsylvania. The exact make-up of fracking fluid is unknown because gas companies can claim it as a trade secret, but we do know that the used fluid contains not only the original highly toxic chemicals, but also heavy concentrations of salts, traces of petrochemicals, and toxins that are carried up from deep in the bedrock. Fracking fluid can be five times saltier than sea water, and can contain any of over two dozen known carcinogens and volatile organic compounds. Because of this, fracking companies have a difficult time disposing of this fluid when they are done with it, and have explored shipping to other states for storage, processing it in wastewater treatment plants, and even using it as de-icer on roads. We shouldn't allow our state to be a guinea pig for disposal schemes such as these. Keeping fracking waste out of Connecticut is the only way to protect our drinking water and Long Island Sound.

HB 5308, AAC the Regulation of Fracking Waste, would classify toxic fracking fluid as hazardous waste, closing a loophole in federal law that has allowed it to remain unregulated here in Connecticut. While some feel that enacting this protection might be a positive first step, we disagree, feeling that it would still allow the import of fracking waste materials into Connecticut.

Protecting Long Island Sound from petrochemicals from the shipping industry is also a concern. Currently, ships loading or offloading oils and other petroleum products must put floatable booms around the transfer area to contain any spills. HB 5307, AAC the Use of Booms for the Retention of Certain Oils, would eliminate this requirement, putting natural resources at unnecessary risk. Though spills are infrequent, a major spill in any of our busy ports would be catastrophic to our economy and our environment. The pre-booming requirement is a common sense best management practice that pays immeasurable dividends by keeping our ports open for business and our Sound's waters and wildlife protected.

We urge you to support a total statewide ban on all fracking waste in CT (SB 237) and to oppose HB 5308's closing of the hazardous waste loophole and HB 5307's weakening of protection against oil spills.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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