



377 Research Parkway, Suite 2-D
Meriden, CT 06450-7160
203-238-1207

**TESTIMONY RE: RAISED HOUSE BILL NO: 5409 AN ACT
CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE**

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
MARCH 4, 2014

Good Afternoon Senator Duff, Representative Reed and esteemed members of the Energy and Technology Committee. Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in Connecticut, and a founding member of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut and a founding member of the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments. I am Dr. Mary Jane Williams, current chairperson of its Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association. I have practiced nursing for over 49 years in Connecticut.

I am providing testimony on **RAISED HOUSE BILL NO: 5409 AN ACT
CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE**

As nurses we must therefore apply the Precautionary Principle defined as "When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context the proponent of the activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of the proof. The process of applying the precautionary principle must be open, informed and democratic and must include potentially affected

The Connecticut Nurses' Association is a member of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut and Health Care Without Harm

parties. It must involve an examination of a full range of alternatives, including no action.”(Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle, Jan. 1998).

Therefore we must ask the ultimate questions:

What do we do with the knowledge we have related to the Fracking and its impact on our environment?

How do we apply the Precautionary Principle?

We are asking that this Principle be proactively applied to the process of waste management related to Fracking.

It is our responsibility to make safe choices to advocate for and protect the public. In order to advocate for good health we must eliminate exposure to Fracking and its by-products. Nurses are the largest group of health care providers nationally. Nursing practice focuses on prevention and wellness. Nursing has a socio-political responsibility to create social action that promotes the creation of a healthy environment. It is important that we make informed decisions that support the maintenance of a Healthy environment for the citizens of Connecticut. I have attached two articles related to Fracking, the process and the environmental issues. Before we act we must consider what is best for the citizens of Connecticut.

I urge you to proceed cautiously and apply the precautionary principles. We need to be extremely cautious about the impact of Fracking Waste on our communities. I urge you to support **RAISED HOUSE BILL NO: 5409 AN ACT CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE.**

Thank You

The Connecticut Nurses' Association is a member of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut and Health Care Without Harm