

Testimony in support of bill H.B. No. 6329 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT

My name is Robert Andrews. I live at 71 Mott lane, Moodus, CT.

I strongly support this bill to keep hydraulic fracturing waste out of Connecticut. Connecticut has been on the receiving end of pollution from the fossil fuel industry in the form of air contaminated by coal-fired power plants and industrial processes to our Southwest. New England has spent the past few decades cleaning our rivers and groundwater. Concern for the same water and air quality issues have led us to support initiatives in solar and wind energy, efficient buildings and cleaner cars. Environmental concerns have been at the forefront of discussions of pipeline and powerline infrastructure. The idea that we might ever allow the by-products of the worst form of fossil fuel extraction into our state is so repugnant that there should be question as to what a responsible vote on this bill should be.

Connecticut can, in addition to protecting the state and its people, can send a message to those who would allow this in other states that we believe the exploitive extraction of fossil fuels needs to be curtailed when it it's methods pose an even greater danger than the dangerous fuel it produces.

And fracking as a process has always been dangerous. Prior to the hydraulic method, explosive fracturing was common in the oilfields. My family was nearly wiped out by an oilfield rig explosion when one of those went wrong in 1930. We were lucky and survived. We never thought that the more modern processes in oil and gas wells could be worse. As it turns out hydraulic fracturing poses a variety of much worse and more widespread dangers. Toxic chemicals must be produced and transported. There is always a danger of spills, of toxics finding their way into local aquifers, direct exposure by those who handle or transport them, and similar exposures in areas where they are disposed of or stored. There is the additional danger of ground instability and earthquakes at fracking sites.

I would like to think that any member of this committee with any consideration for the environment and the health of our citizens and those in other states would vote in favor of this bill. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.