



**CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS**

March 8, 2017

To: Senator Kennedy, Senator Miner, Representative Demicco and distinguished members of the Environment Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 6329 Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the need to permanently ban the importation of fracking waste into our state. Fracking, also known as hydraulic fracturing, is the process of pumping fluid into ground to create fractures in rock for the production of natural gas and oil. The entire drilling and extraction process creates huge amounts of liquid and solid hazardous wastes. While fracking itself is not likely in Connecticut, our **state could become a dumping ground for the unwanted waste produced from fracking in other states.**

This concern prompted our State legislature to adopt a **temporary moratorium** on certain activities associated with fracking waste from gas drilling in Connecticut. The moratorium also mandates the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to adopt regulations for fracking waste and submit them for review. Under **Public Act 14-200**, the regulations are to be submitted to the Legislature between July 1, 2017 and July 1, 2018.

Fracking waste contains toxic chemicals, environmental toxins, and hazardous contaminants that are known to cause multiple cancers, organ damage, and other serious health problems. Remediation of spills or discharge of improperly treated waste would be a costly burden to taxpayers, if it can be done at all. With this in mind, the Legislature is considering proposals this session to either extend the moratorium or ban fracking waste from entering our state once and for all.

Why prohibit fracking waste in Connecticut?

The drilling and extraction process of **even a single shale well can produce over a million gallons of toxic radioactive wastewater and hundreds of tons of potentially radioactive solid waste.** Oil and gas drilling wastes are a toxic soup of carcinogens (naphthalene, benzene, acrylamide and radium - causing breast, bone, liver and other cancers) environmental toxins (toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene - causing nervous system, kidney or liver harm) and contaminants (arsenic, lead, hexavalent chromium and radioactive radium-226 which has a half-life of 1600 yrs.) Yet, **waste byproducts and brine from wells are used in some states for de-**

icing roads, as construction fill and brownfield capping, a concern prompting some Connecticut towns to move ahead of DEEP by passing local ordinances banning fracking waste, with additional towns currently working toward such bans.

Bringing this dangerous waste to Connecticut for disposal, via thousands of additional tanker trucks on our roadways, poses the risk of accidents, spills, and contamination of private and public lands, drinking and surface waters, and costly repairs to road and publicly-owned treatment systems. Connecticut is one of the smallest and most densely populated states in the nation, and this activity would threaten resident health and risk land and water resources and property values forever. We know that waste from over 10,000 fracked wells in Pennsylvania (one of the most radioactive shale deposits in the nation) is currently being shipped to at least 8 states, and **Connecticut is targeted to be one of the recipients.**

What needs to be done now?

Citizens want the State to take action to permanently prohibit the disposal, treatment, storage, handling, de-icing applications and other uses of fracking waste and by-products anywhere in Connecticut. Like our neighboring state of Vermont, **we need to take final steps to protect all 169 of our Connecticut towns and cities.** CTLCV urges you to support HB 6329 to make the ban on fracking waste permanent.

Thank you for considering this testimony as you deliberate.

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