

March 13, 2017

Kate Conetta
4 Topfield Rd.
Danbury, CT 06811

RE: Testimony in support of House Bill 6329, An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut

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

My name is Kate Conetta and I am from Danbury, CT. I am writing in support of House Bill 6329, An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut.

In many places across the country, people are being exposed to the harmful effects of fracking itself and the subsequent impact of the waste products it generates. From the contamination of groundwater and air, to the use of massive amounts of water and the potential dangers of infrastructure degradation and gas explosions, fracking serves to benefit only one group of people: those who are making their living through the continued support of the fossil fuel industry.

It should be clear by using the word “waste” that we are referring to material which is no longer considered useable. In this case, it also refers to material that is downright dangerous. Some of the unfortunate air byproducts include benzene, toluene, xylene and ethyl benzene, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, smog, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter and dust – pollutants known to cause short-term illness, cancer, organ damage, nervous system disorders and even birth defects. Water used in the fracking process creates millions of gallons of toxic fluid including industrial chemicals such as butane, methane, methylene chloride, sulfate, radon, radium, hydrogen sulfide, silica, arsenic and radioactive particles. Some of this flows back to the surface, creating waste aboveground which needs disposing and some stays in the soil, chemically tainting it.

To give you a sense of what we are talking about, the EPA allows a maximum of 5 picocuries of radium per liter of drinking water; treated water used for fracking has been found to contain levels as high as 9,000 picocuries per liter.

In addition, it would be impossible to prevent potential leaks, spills and accidents with the disposal of this waste, as we have learned by watching other communities fall victim to the harmful effects of both fracking and waste disposal. Cleanup for these accidents is costly and often results in long-term damage which cannot be undone. I would urge you to approve this bill and even consider strengthening it to include a ban on any waste generated by oil or gas drilling or extraction for added measure.

Let’s follow the ten towns which have already passed local ordinances to ban fracking waste. Please look out for the environmental future of the state and the health of its citizens.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kate Conetta