

March 12, 2017

Testimony for HB6329 An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing in CT

To Chairmen Senator Kennedy, Senator Miner, Representatives Demicco and members of the Environment Committee:

I petitioned in my community in support of the proposed fracking waste ban ordinance in New London. I have spoken to individuals and local groups organizing in the area in response to their concerns about the new White House administration. Aside from signatures, I have collected an almost uniform impression. People were shocked. Most knew about fracking and were opposed to it. Many also believed that, if we were without eligible shale formations in Connecticut, we were at least locally "safe" from its risks.

When people learned about fracking waste, eligible for processing in our hazardous and sewage treatment facilities or its solids, processed and sold as a road de-icer, their response was simple - we must stop this.

In New London, we have since then succeeded in passing our local ordinance banning fracking waste at City Council on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Starting from our closest governance, we continue to be inspired to push our legislators to work for the passing of strong environmental protections that respect our limited natural resources and provide encouragement and incentives for a clean energy future.

As long as this current administration continues to put corporate interests above public welfare, we must remain vigilant. Because the fracking companies' exact lists of chemicals used are protected as "trade secret" exemptions under state or federal law; we can't absolutely know the full extent of the potential damage to our environment.

We do know that over 600 different chemicals are appropriate for the objectives of hydraulic fracturing. Typically, 5 to 10 chemicals are used in a single frack job and 80-300 tons of chemicals may be used. Identified chemicals used for hydraulic fracturing include: formaldehyde, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, and hydrochloric acid. Studies of fracking waste have further identified radioactive material, cadmium, lead, arsenic, mercury, and hexavalent chromium. All pose significant dangers to human health and welfare, including cancer, organ damage, neurological damage, birth defects and developmental disorders. Endocrinologists have warned that some of the chemicals used are known hormone-disruptors. Others classified as biocides are designed to kill bacteria and cannot be considered benign in our soil and groundwater.

Please fortify and pass HB6329, An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing in CT.

Sincerely,

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