

Connecticut General Assembly – Environment Committee Public Hearing March 13, 2017 House Bill No. 6329 AN ACT CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT

TO: Chairs, Senator Kennedy, Senator Miner, Representative Demicco & members of the Committee,

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony. Thank you. I am a resident of Windham CT, a poor community often the target of polluting industries because they know we could use the money they offer in exchange for taking their waste and other pollutants. This is true throughout our country where air and water quality change by zip code, such that there are more health problems in poor communities than in more affluent ones.

Fortunately for us in Windham, the town saw fit to pass, last October, an ordinance banning hydraulic fracturing waste for gas and also for all oil and gas drilling and extractions. Even with our limited enforcement ability as a single community, it is better than not having a ban until there is a statewide, permanent ban.

Ironically, some of the fracking waste that would end up in Connecticut if there were no ban would come from the region of Pennsylvania where I was born and grew up. That region is in the heart of the Marcellus shale area where lots of fracking has taken place. Similar to Connecticut towns like Windham, this area of Pennsylvania was a target, not just because of the gas in the ground there, but because poverty due to unemployment made it enticing to work for the industry, to do the companies' dirty work for them. My own brother succumbed to that temptation and drove a truck filled with waste away from drilling sites for the grand sum of \$17 an hour, which was a lot given his wage history. He stopped after four months when the fumes affected his health and also his already-troubled conscience.

We are very fortunate that Connecticut has no desirable gases and oil beneath our surfaces. But we are a desirable place for disposal of fracking waste products unless, the Big Unless, a permanent ban is passed, such as HB6329. With some 11 CT towns having passed waste bans and at least as many in the works (I know of six here in Northeastern CT), the people are speaking. Please listen.

Thank you so very much for drafting this bill and for doing all that you can to make it a strong bill that will protect us all in Connecticut. I know that, after you pass this out of committee, you will work in your caucuses to ensure its passage.

Sincerely yours,

Virginia Fulton
156 Windham Center Road
Windham CT 06280
Vmfulton@earthlink.net
860-428-2470