



The Jonah Center for Earth and Art

P.O. Box 854

Middletown CT 06457

(860) 398-3771

www.thejonahcenter.org

email jhall@thejonahcenter.org

Testimony In Support of H.B. 6329 Concerning hydraulic fracturing waste in Connecticut

By John C. Hall
Executive Director

Several years ago, the DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee intervened to stop legislation that would have permanently banned hydraulic fracturing (fracking) waste from being imported into our state. The expressed reason was that the proposed bill would impede commerce.

This was a time when the state was preparing to authorize construction of natural gas pipelines into and through Connecticut – pipelines that now appear to be too expensive to be economically viable, and for which the economic risk would be passed onto consumers, not the utilities. Was Commissioner Klee’s opposition part of the state’s policy to promote natural gas pipelines?

Or, perhaps Commissioner Klee also had in mind the potential for Connecticut companies to process fracking waste, though it is hard to imagine how this would be a significant industry for our state, located as it is at such a distance from fracking sites. Is there even a way to “clean up” fracking waste that does not, in itself, present a threat to our local environment? This waste generally contains radioactive materials.

Opposition to the fracking waste ban was never defended or explained in a reasonable way, or with sufficient detail. Nevertheless, the ban became a 3-year moratorium that is due to expire this year. In the meantime, a number of cities and towns, including Middletown and Portland (where I live) have passed fracking waste bans.

Given the hazardous nature of fracking waste, the carelessness with which it is often handled, and the potential for it to be used for road de-icing as a cheap but dangerous disposal strategy, it is time for the Connecticut General Assembly to ban fracking waste once and for all.

Thank you for your consideration in support of H.B. 6329.

Our mission: to foster sustainable relationships among people, other creatures, energy resources, and the environment and to promote interdisciplinary community partnerships in scientific, artistic, and other cultural endeavors.