

To: Environment Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly

Re: HB 6329 An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut

I thank the Committee for taking up this important issue and providing an opportunity for public comment. Your attention is timely, in that the current moratorium on fracking waste will expire next year and DEEP has been charged with writing regulations by which the state would manage such waste, should the moratorium expire.

I write in support of HB 6329 whose purpose is to prohibit fracking waste products from Connecticut. I encourage its adoption, eliminating the necessity for DEEP to consider how to regulate such material.

Waste products from fracking are noxious, from natural sources as well as from the chemicals introduced by the drilling companies. They contain brine as well as radioactive materials, and a dangerous mix of chemicals that are not publicly identified by the companies. It would be difficult to eliminate these toxins by hazardous waste facilities and it would be disastrous for such waste to be allowed to enter our water supply.

There is no economic value in allowing fracking waste to enter Connecticut; indeed, the economic and environmental costs argue mightily for waste to be prohibited. Connecticut is under no obligation to take care of another state's problem.

Our three hazardous waste treatment facilities are currently not in compliance with regulations; an additional burden would not improve their record.

Our water supply is a precious resource, one that is essential for our economic and environmental health. We need to be vigilant in protecting both surface and underground water supplies – it is not prudent to introduce more challenges to this essential resource system.

Finally, I would urge this bill to be strengthened by including prohibition on all waste products generated by fossil fuel extraction processes. None of those materials, whether solid or fluid, add to the quality of Connecticut's environment or economy. Indeed, they pose an additional burden that we do not need to bear.

Thank you again for taking up this crucial issue.

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