

Testimony Regarding PBH 6329 – AN ACT CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of HB6329, "An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut". As a farmer, a volunteer firefighter, a parent, and a taxpayer, the presence of fracking wastes and byproducts in my home state concerns me at every level.

As a farmer, I am a steward of the land, with an eye towards its health not merely next year but next century. The kind of longterm soil pollution caused by leaks, spills, and disposal of fracking by-products can cause irreparable harm to both surface soils and subsoils, rendering fertile land unusable for farming, poisoning watersheds that feed irrigation, and sickening those of us who work in contact with the earth.

As a firefighter, the frequently poor documentation of exactly what's in fracking wastes, the known flammability and/or carcinogenic nature of some of what is known in the wastes, and the notion of increased truck and rail traffic carrying this manner of material through our region is nightmare-inducing. Truck accidents happen. Rail cars derail. And when they do, people like me are on the front lines, exposed to the materials in question.

As a parent, I have a little boy. His growing body is extremely sensitive to persistent pollutants in soil, water, and air. I want him to grow up in a state that not only protects him from unnecessary dangers like fracking wastes, but which also continues to be a leader in non-fossil-fuel clean energy development. Our house has solar panels, due to the support of the state of CT. Our house is well-insulated for the same reason. Let's move more in those directions, rather than becoming a way station (or destination) for toxic garbage generated in an attempt to squeeze more climate-destroying hydrocarbons out of the ground.

As a taxpayer, the costs to my state to clean up the damage if a waste vehicle spills, leaks, etc. is not a cost I want my cash-strapped state to have to confront.

I urge you all to move this bill out of committee and for the legislature to vote it into law.

Thank you for the chance to let my experiences be part of the decision-making process.

Sincerely,

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