
**TESTIMONY FOR HB6329 AN ACT CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING
IN CT**

TO: SENATOR KENNEDY, SENATOR MINER, REPRESENTATIVE DEMICCO AND MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: JANE KOCHERSPERGER

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL 6329

DATE: MARCH 16, 2017

CC: REPRESENTATIVE LIVVY FLOREN, REPRESENTATIVE FRED CAMILLO, REPRESENTATIVE MIKE BOCHINO AND STATE SENATOR SCOTT FRANTZ

I am a resident of Cos Cob, CT – a neighborhood within Greenwich, CT – and would like to submit these comments for the record in support of House Bill 6329. I do so with the request that additional language be included to further strengthen this bill, to prohibit all drilling and extraction wastes from both oil and gas wells, to continue to designate this waste as hazardous and potentially radioactive, allowing for appropriately placarded transport on Connecticut roads, and to include significant penalties for violations.

As a resident of Greenwich and Connecticut writ large, I have had quite the immersion in local and statewide water issues over the past six months. My interest and concern began with the drought and our water company's response to it. In the process of researching water-related issues in my hometown to which I returned in 2011, I have been fortunate to connect with others who are knowledgeable and engage in water conservation individually as well as those who work to implement best management practices under the oversight of our town. It has been quite the education and I have finally accepted that it will be ongoing.

During this time while focused on water conservation measures, I was invited to listen to two presentations and did additional research and reviewed the research of others. Because the scope of the issue at hand is rather large, my research and reading will also be ongoing. I am referring to the issue of fracking and the waste created by this process.

While I am grateful that legislation has once again been introduced in CT to ban the acceptance of fracking waste, I am appalled that this is even a question in our state. This is waste and wastewater that is being created out of state that is exceedingly problematic for a host of reasons. There are numerous exemptions for fracking waste under RCRA alone (toxicity and remediation) so it really puts the onus on state-level leadership to protect your citizens as well as our economy and environment.

I have read about the pros and cons of gas and fracking. I am highly disturbed that we might accept contaminated waste that could jeopardize the health of residents and their children; the property values of residents and businesses, as well as jeopardize agricultural businesses in CT and damage wildlife resources for hundreds of years into the future. I share this while noting

numerous studies on the toxicity of fracking waste and waste water and acknowledging that much other information on the chemical constituents is proprietary or not available to the public including scientists. However, we have enough reliable and unbiased scientific information to do better on behalf of Connecticut residents and the environment - and by environment - I refer to both passive benefits as well as any income generation related to tourism, agriculture, etc.

I am very disturbed that we do not already have a ban in place. It seems like the wisest course of action given the potential health and economic impacts to Connecticut and its residents. When in doubt, err on the side of being conservative in action. This leads me to wonder who or what will benefit from accepting the out-of-state waste/waste water? Companies involved in fracking out of state? Lobbyists for the same? The three hazardous waste treatment facilities in CT located in Bristol; Meriden, and Bridgeport? On the latter, it won't create additional employment opportunities so it wouldn't benefit the residents of those towns. It would involve transport and trucking but that is an additional potential local hazard. Will it benefit Connecticut with regard to revenue generated in permitting? Possibly, but that would be short-term value at great hazard to shore up a statewide deficit that suffers under partisan politics which has already gutted CT DEEP so that it could never provide the oversight or informed science to the benefit of taxpayers who pay for their limited but valuable services necessary for appropriate public, environmental, business, and homeowner protections. Who exactly would benefit from allowing this waste into our state? I want to know. I live downstream and like everyone else, I am dependent on clean and safe drinking water. It connects all of us no matter what income bracket. We deserve some answers on this matter.

More specifically, extensive documentation exists on what information we do have access to. The waste from fracking contains both potentially toxic chemicals involved in fracking fluid as well as natural contaminants and some known carcinogens such as Benzene. The amount of money involved in remediating such through POTWs or other isn't practical, judicious, or even sensible. Why should Connecticut be burdened with this cost in light of the current ancillary evidence re: corrosion at existing plants that treat this waste stream? It makes no sense. Just because we are currently benefiting from lower costs re: gas as a so-called cleaner burning fuel doesn't mean that we should be subsidizing the wealth of companies that sell gas. Yes, we want to be a business-friendly state. But at the expense of risking revenue streams by companies in state and the health of residents and land values? No. If a business with great resources and wealth cannot afford to improvise and innovate best management practices for a waste stream on site, it tells me a lot about that company and the industry itself. The same applies to any public official who would support acceptance of a waste stream that is questionable.

In addition and with regard to potential toxicity and future remediation, "Radium 226 and 228 are radioactive contaminants commonly found in oil and gas drilling and extraction wastes" according to comments provided by Food and Water Watch which has 20,000 members and supporters in Connecticut alone. Although they seem to be very reputable, I went ahead and checked the statistics and information on this myself. They are correct and the comments they have already provided offer greater detail on the matter. I would just like to emphasize one

portion that needs greater attention by Connecticut specifically: “To adequately test for radioactive material, each tanker load would require this lengthy and costly testing prior to entering the state, and any effluent or sludge passed from hazardous waste treatment facilities to city sewage systems, publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) or energy incinerators would also require this testing to prevent cumulative radioactive contamination. This is not likely to be included in DEEP’s Best Management Practices; including these requirements may result in companies bringing costly legal challenges for regulations deemed burdensome.”

Lastly, we are locally expecting significant cuts to funding that has supported the scientific work and best management practices necessary to clean up and preserve the Long Island Sound. The Long Island Sound is a receiving point from many conduits including the Mianus River Watershed itself which many of us depend upon for clean drinking water, recreation, fishing, and other. Water flows --- whether naturally connected or dispersed interchangeably via cities and towns by pipes within certain perimeters --- are extremely valuable and must be treated so. We are all dependent upon water as a natural resource and deserve clean drinking water. Please do not overlook the significance of this. We already have an environmental agency at the state level that is overburdened with responsibilities and limited staff working to protect the public health and environment in collaboration with local officials. Accepting a new toxic waste stream into our state when CT DEEP is already struggling to meet professional demands in substance on behalf of the public, the environment, and businesses while facing additional financial constraints raises some very significant concerns with real world impact at great cost.

Thank you for all of your work on behalf of the public health of Connecticut residents and the ecosystems that connect and sustain us on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

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