

Testimony for HB 6329: An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in CT

Submitted by Jaclyn Kusluch of 440 Church St, Amston, CT 06231

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Dear members of the Environment Committee,

I support HB 6329: An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in CT. Connecticut should not put its people at risk by choosing to act as a toxic waste dump for fossil fuel industry activity.

I grew up on the Connoquenessing Creek, a tributary to the Beaver River in western Pennsylvania. My childhood summers were spent playing in this water, searching for crayfish under the rocks and getting in mud fights with my three siblings. The well that supplied my family's drinking water was not much more than a stone's throw from the creek's edge. The water was lovely to look at, but thanks to one steel company, this modest creek was the second most polluted waterway in the United States, second only to the mighty Mississippi. One can't help but wonder about the long-term health impact a person experiences growing up with this pollution, or even the effect of the endless worry a parent feels knowing this industrial waste is a part of the lives of their children.

I moved to Connecticut in 2010 and am raising my own child here. Connecticut's great gift to my son and to me is the clean water surrounding our rural home and filling our well.

Simply put, fracking waste is concentrated poison. The pollution risks of accepting it into our community are unacceptable. What could be worth the threat of introducing its toxic soup, including radioactive material, into our environment, our air, our drinking water, our bodies, our children? No matter what promises the oil and gas industry might make about the safety of this material, the truth is that the transportation, so-called "treatment," and storage of extraction waste is subject to human error and mechanical accidents, leaks and spills, shoddy maintenance and cutting corners.

I thought I had left behind the worry of polluted water when I said good-bye to the Connoquenessing. I loved that place and still do, but I wasn't sorry to leave its pollution. The water where I live now is both lovely to look at *and* clean. Please keep it that way and support this bill to ban hydraulic fracking waste from our state.

Thank you for your time.

Jaclyn Kusluch, of Hebron, Connecticut, formerly of northern Beaver County, Pennsylvania