

Dear Environment Committee,

I recently attended an informational presentation in Hampton given by a volunteer from Food & Water Watch regarding hydraulic fracturing or "fracking." It was a scary eye-opener and I came away from the meeting thinking there is nothing positive about the fracking process -- nothing. Sure, there is profit to be made from fracking and from accepting fracking waste for disposal or even using fracking waste to treat icy roads, but it is at the expense of the environment and ultimately many people's well-being and quality of life. We no longer have time to consider profit over the environment and people when our ice caps are melting away at an alarming rate, sea levels are dramatically rising and extreme weather is now continuously disrupting lives around the globe. The main component in natural gas is methane, one of the most aggressive greenhouse gases and a leading contributor to climate change. Methane leaks are common in the fracking process. It is human instinct not to jeopardize that which will ensure the health and success of our families, communities and the human race as a whole. One cannot deny that drilling wells and injecting millions of gallons of "fracking fluid," containing radioactivity and hundreds of deadly chemicals, into deep, underground rock formations and aquifers, is not a good thing. Water is vital to life. We are here on this planet because of water. It makes no sense to permanently poison it.

You are on the Environment Committee. I believe there should be no hesitation in your decision to support HB 6329. There's no turning back the clock. Our environment has drastically changed because of destructive and reckless practices like fracking. I urge you to learn everything you can about hydraulic fracking and listen to your inner voice. Thank you for your attention.

Annie Withey  
co-founder of Annie's, Inc.  
Hampton, CT