

Testimony to support PHB #6329 An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut (ENV)

In the interest of protecting Public Health it is vitally important to ban hydraulic fracturing waste and gas and gas drilling and extraction waste in Connecticut. Few substances on earth are as toxic to our health and environment as the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing and then sent to states like Connecticut for disposal.

In other states spills have leached through the ground, poisoning aquifers and well water. Spills have also permanently damaged private and public property and run into waterways. Radioactivity that has been found in the river system in Pennsylvania is believed to have come from fracking chemicals. Remediation is usually paid by taxpayers and utility customers. With current state and town budget problems, we cannot risk the exorbitant expense of contamination.

Professor Theo Colborn has won numerous international prominent awards for her research on the dangers of chemicals that are endocrine disruptors. She especially warned us of the danger of chemicals used in the process of hydraulic fracturing. In 2011, The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDex) lead by 87 year old Professor Colborn published a study of the 980 formulas (called "products") that were then known to be used in the fracking process. 89% of the reported chemicals are known to damage the brain/nervous system, 33% are carcinogens, 93% harm the liver/GI system, 66% harm kidneys; 97% damage respiratory systems. All known chemicals had been reported by the oil and gas industry to a Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. The industry refused to disclose all chemicals used in the fracking process citing the need to protect their patent. TEDex estimated that the public and government know less than 1% of the chemicals in 43% of the formulas reported.

750+ studies have been done on the health effects of chemicals in fracking waste including Yale University's research. Fracking chemicals also cause leukemia and lymphoma and are linked to reproductive and developmental problems.

We don't know how reliably these hazardous chemicals have been treated or tested before coming to Connecticut. The processing plants most likely to treat these chemicals in Connecticut have all have been repeatedly cited for safety violations. Spills routinely occur when the waste is transferred between trucks and storage containers. It is impossible for DEEP to write regulations that would safely protect the health of Connecticut residents. Please protect our lives and our health and pass HB 6329. Thank you.

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