

Connecticut General Assembly – Environment Committee Public Hearing March 13, 2017
House Bill No. 6329 AN ACT CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT

To Chairs Senator Kennedy, Senator Miner, Representative Demicco and members of the committee,

The Town of Windham Energy Commission urges you to support House Bill No. 6329 AN ACT CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT.

Windham recently passed an ordinance banning hydraulic fracturing waste for gas and also for all oil and gas drilling and extractions wastes. While our small community is limited in our ability to enforce such an ordinance, we passed it with the intention of encouraging our state legislators to adopt a similar, and complete ban, instead of writing regulations to allow oil and gas extraction waste into CT's waters and land.

Windham has a history of being targeted by polluting industries. Windham eventually closed a garbage incinerator and refused to accept ash in our landfills as we all learned of this new chemical called dioxins which are created in the incineration process and are carcinogenic. Our Water Pollution Control facility might be targeted to treat and release waters from fracking. No one can know what to test for or how to clean that water for 2 reasons: first, the companies will not tell us what is in it, and secondly, the high pressure and temperatures associated with the fracking process will create new chemicals which are not currently identifiable. Windham residents have proudly and consistently refused the carrot of millions of dollars in revenue in favor of protecting our land and water. If this impoverished community can do that, so must the state of CT.

No one in Connecticut wants to suffer the costs of toxic, radioactive fracking waste impacting our health, contaminating aquifers and soil, and threatening our property values and public infrastructure. Now, our state legislators have a chance to protect Connecticut in the only way possible: with an outright ban on importing oil & gas drilling wastes from other states. Current law must be changed to stop the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection from submitting regulations for review as early as this summer.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Jean de Smet

Jean de Smet
Chair, Windham Energy Commission