

Support the Ban on Toxic Fracking Waste in CT: Pass SB 103

I started studying the fracking issue a number of years ago as a joint owner of property in the beautiful Finger Lakes of New York state. This was before that state's governor imposed a moratorium on fracking in New York. I have read a book on this subject, followed ProPublica reporting, read newspaper accounts in my parents' home state of Pennsylvania, etc.

My thoughts:

1) It's a sin for the ages that hydrolic fracturing was exempted from the Clean Water Act under the Bush/Cheney administration. Unbelievable. No way should drilling companies be able to use profuse amounts of a state's water resources, lace that water with undisclosed chemicals, and then dump the whole mess back on the state (or another state). Period.

2) I was interested to read the history of how one community in New York state stumbled upon the strategy of banning hydrolic fracturing within its own borders as a way to mitigate harm in the face of the state's inaction. Interestingly, among the members of that local community's action committee were several Texas oilmen, retirees who'd left the Lone Star state in favor of the idyllic charms of New York. In addition to wanting to preserve their new home, they were appalled at the comparative lack of drilling oversight in northern vs. southern states. (And that was with regards to conventional drilling, not the more complicated horizontal fracturing.) Should tell us something.

3) The Lancaster, PA newspaper featured a story of fracking waste water dumped into a nearby river. Of course, unsafe levels of benzene and other toxic chemicals were discovered, chemicals that the water treatment plants were not equipped to deal with. We're talking highly carcinogenic substances here. (As you know, unlike New York, Pennsylvania's governor went "all in" on fracking.)

4) I've been hearing recently of fracking waste water being sold (given?) to drought-stricken California farmers to use for crop irrigation. If you're drinking POM Wonderful pomegranate juice, better think again.

Just as individual New York communities attempted to exert control over their own domains, it may required individual states to keep the fracking industry in check until we have a federal government and EPA who will.

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Page 2: Support the Ban

Until drillers are willing to disclose the chemicals they use and any other toxic substances that are a by-product of their process, there is no way to safely dispose of fracking waste water. Moreover, as water itself becomes more imperiled globally, it makes no sense to facilitate fracking and thereby perpetuate our dependence on oil leading to climate change leading to water scarcity.

Stop the madness, at least where we can: here in CT.

Sincerely,

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