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TESTIMONY Public Hearing – February 23, 2018

TO: Members of the Environment Committee
Re: **Senate Bill 103, AAC HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT.**

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Board of Health of the Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD) headquartered in Wethersfield, CT. CCHD is the regional public health department for the towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield.

We support SB 103, the intent of the original statute, and the proposed changes regarding hydraulic fracturing waste in Connecticut.

Unconventional shale gas development brought a whole new technology and intensive methods, such as hydraulic fracturing, to extract natural gas. In other parts of our country this has occurred on an unprecedented scale and is located near homes, schools, farms and businesses. As with so many technologies, the development of this technology occurred before the full impact on the environment and human health could be adequately determined.

Many potential harms from this technology and the management of its waste and byproducts, such as groundwater contamination by the chemicals used in production and radioactive substances, cannot be easily mitigated after the fact, if at all. Further, there is a growing body of evidence in the literature of harm to the environment and to the public's health. Therefore, we believe it is prudent for our State to take measures such as this law first proposed.

In recent times 34 or more cities and towns in the Connecticut have passed local ordinances prohibiting natural gas waste and oil waste from these natural gas extraction activities within these municipalities. Two of the member towns in our Health District – Rocky Hill and Wethersfield – have already done so.

We urge the Environment Committee to move this bill forward. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Judith A. Sartucci, MSN, RN
Board Chairman

Charles K. Brown, Jr., MPH
Board Secretary-Treasurer and
Director of Health



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