

Dear Senator Kennedy, Senator Miner, Representative DeMicco, and distinguished members of the Environment Committee,

Please support Senate Bill 103, An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut

The House already passed a law last summer to permanently ban fracking waste in Connecticut, and I urge the Senate to pass the equivalent now, during this legislative session, before the end of the moratorium this summer.

Even investor advising companies like Investopedia and Forbes warn against the negative health impacts of fracking per se, as well as fracking waste:

“The presence of wastewater has harmful ramifications on the environment, as it cannot be easily treated and returned to usable water for purposes other than fracking.”

<https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/011915/what-are-effects-fracking-environment.asp> last visited 2/22/18

“there are now more than 700 studies looking at risks—and more than 80% of the health studies document risks or actual harms.

It’s also important to note that these risks are likely to be seriously *underestimated*, because the environmental agencies have been downplaying the risks to the public.”

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/judystone/2017/02/23/fracking-is-dangerous-to-your-health-heres-why/#4fcdb855945f> last visited 2/22/18

Gas and Oil industry, and even federal and state agencies, have tried to hide and avoid complaints from citizens affected by fracking:

“Corporations involved in fracking, like ExxonMobil, have inserted loopholes in drilling legislation that allow them to keep various chemicals used in the fracking process secret.”

<https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/global-warming/issues/fracking/environmental-impacts-water/> last visited 2/22/18

“In 2015, it said it had found no evidence that fracking had “led to widespread, systemic impacts on drinking water resources,” although it did find specific instances of problems, including contamination of drinking water wells. It revised its report in December 2016, noting that there was evidence that “fracking contributed to drinking water contamination—‘cases of impact’—in all stages of the process,” as ProPublica explained in its in-depth series on fracking. ProPublica also notes that

in Dimock, Pa., the EPA concluded that their foul, brown water “did not require emergency action, such as a federal cleanup.” Yet another study of the same water, by the CDC’s Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, found **dangerously high levels of lead, cadmium, arsenic and copper** in residents’ wells, as well as **non-natural pollutants including acetone, toluene and chloroform, and a compound called 4-chlorophenyl phenyl ether**. The water in 17 homes contained enough **methane** to risk an explosion.”

[...] By December 2016, through the reporters' dogged persistence, the [Pennsylvania] DEP produced a new list revealing a statewide total of 9,442 complaints from 2004 onwards.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/judystone/2017/02/17/fracking-and-what-new-epa-means-for-your-health/#1ab664ad38e1> last visited 2/22/18

However, it is clear that way too many harmful chemicals are present in fracking waste, and are there to stay:

“In the water samples from spill sites, the team [from a study published in Environ.Sci.Technol.2016, DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.5b06349] found that high concentrations of salts, trace metals, and other toxic contaminants persisted from the spills. **Selenium, thallium, and radium** exceeded maximum contaminant levels for drinking water in some samples. Additionally, **ammonium and selenium** concentrations were above recommended levels for aquatic life. In soil and sediment samples downstream from the Blacktail Creek spill site, **radium** concentrations were up to 100 times as great as in samples upstream.

Brian W. Stewart, a geochemist at the University of Pittsburgh who studies fracking wastewater, says this is the first time to his knowledge that systematic sampling has been done downstream of known brine spills to detect the impact of wastewater from fracking. “I was surprised that it persists that long,” he says; in two cases, the group found elevated levels of contaminants from a spill **four years later**.”

<https://cen.acs.org/articles/94/web/2016/05/Toxic-chemicals-fracking-wastewater-spills.html> last visited 2/22/18

No amount of economic or financial gains can ever outweigh the risks to public health and water resources in CT. Spills have happened and will continue to happen, and we don't have neither financial means nor actual facilities to decontaminate our water once it is poisoned. The only way to keep Connecticut residents safe is to ban fracking waste permanently, and in any form, as waste water or its products.

Please pass this law, S.B.103, during the current session.

Respectfully,

Adelheid Koepfer
Wallingford, CT