

## Testimony for CT Senate Bill 103: “An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in CT”

Brief introduction: I am a scientist with a background in environmental issues—in particular, fossil fuels and climate change.

This testimony is a plea to you, the Senators and Representatives of my state of CT, to do what you can to support and pass legislation to ban fracking waste (both toxic and radioactive in nature) from our state. Fracking (short for “hydraulic fracturing”), as you no doubt are aware, is a relatively new technology that allows previously non-extractable natural gas, often captured in shale rock, to be extracted by hydraulic drilling and later transported to other sites. Fracking is an imperfect technique; during the process of drilling, contaminated water has gotten into the water table in other states where fracking is allowed. The health risks are enormous; as evidence, the Pennsylvania Medical Society has called for a moratorium on fracking in the state of PA (news story in *Physicians for Social Responsibility*, October 26, 2016; see <http://www.psr.org/news-events/press-releases/pennsylvania-medical-society-moratorium-fracking.html?print=t&referrer=https://www.google.com/> ). I fervently hope that fracking never gains a foothold in CT.

In addition to water contamination that I have mentioned, some of the ozone used during the fracking process is released into the air, where it harms the respiratory system, causing breathing problems.

All of these effects of fracking have direct and indirect effects on human health. Babies and the elderly are particularly at risk. Some of the harmful medical effects include increased cancer rates (from Radium-226, with a very long half-life), damage to several essential organs, problems of a neurological and developmental nature, respiratory illnesses, a compromised immune system, and damage to fetuses carried by exposed pregnant women.

Apart from the numerous serious health risks of hydraulic fracturing, storage, and transportation, there is the issue that fracking converts a huge “sink” of fossil fuels, previously unavailable, into yet another available source of unrenewable fuel, the burning of which adds to carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide in our atmosphere, exacerbating all of the side effects of climate change—global warming, rising seas, melting ice caps, and numerous extreme weather events (mudslides, flooding, major hurricanes such as we have never before seen, and more. In our home state of CT, we have already seen extreme flooding of our coastal cities due to rising seas and unusual hurricanes.

Senators, please think of your constituents and vote your conscience for Senate Bill 103 (as well as any future bills that may come up in the future that would bring fracking and the storage and transportation of its gas products into CT). Representatives, please talk with your colleagues in the State Senate and encourage them to pass the bill.

In the meantime, I plan to work with the Town of Hamden, where I live, to do what we can as a municipality to ban fracking and its ancillary processes (drilling, extraction, and waste storage), following CT General Statute 7-148.

Respectfully,

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