

To: Environment Committee

From: Dr. Gary Bent  
1250 Farmington Ave., Apt. A17  
West Hartford, CT 06107

Re: SB 103

I thank the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony. I ask that SB 103 be passed by the legislature so that fracking waste from other states will not be a threat to our towns. So far, 37 towns have passed ordinances that ban the use of fracking waste or derivatives. Connecticut residents feel strongly about banning fracking waste because:

- Waste from fracking (hydraulic fracturing) contains water, rock cuttings, and sludges contaminated with carcinogenic chemicals such as benzene, heavy metals such as arsenic and mercury, and radioactive material such as radium and radon;
- Oil and gas companies are seeking ways to dispose of trillions of gallons of fracking waste;
- Connecticut sewage treatment plants and centralized waste treatment plants are possible sites for disposal of this waste;
- Disposal experience of fracking waste in Pennsylvania demonstrates that sewage treatment plants and typical centralized waste treatment plants are not adequate for safe removal of radioactive material, high level of salts in water, and carcinogenic chemicals;
- construction of centralized waste treatment plants that meet the standards for producing clean water from fracking waste water will make the disposal expensive for oil and gas companies;
- The temptation to lower standards to make Connecticut companies competitive for accepting hazardous fracking waste will always be present;
- Truck accidents, spills, leaks, and illegal dumping can expose farmland, ground water, drivers, police, EMTs, and the public to fracking waste;
- Landfill disposal of fracking sludge and cuttings could contaminate them for thousands of years. Storage in closed containment tanks could eventually result in permanent ground water and surface water contamination;
- Road spreading of fracking waste water for dust control and de-icing on roads increases risk of exposure to drivers and pedestrians and contamination of nearby fields and surface waters.