CONNECTICUT NURSES' ASSOCIATION

1224 Mill St Bldg B, Suite 223, East
Berlin, CT 0602
203-238-1207
FAX (203) 238-3437
www.ctnurses.org

Testimony for Public Hearing
Environment Committee
March 23, 2018

S.B. 103 (Raised): AAC HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT

Senator Kennedy, Senator Miner, Representative Demicco and distinguished committee members, I want to thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in strong support **SB 103 (Raised), AAC HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT.**

I am Hacah Boros, Environmental Health Coordinator for the Connecticut Nurses Association, which is a founding member of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut. We urge your strong support of **SB 103, AAC HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT**, to prohibit the receipt, collection, storage, treatment and disposal of waste from hydraulic fracturing.

According to information obtained from the EPA and Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, oil and gas companies use High Volume Hydraulic

Fracturing, or “fracking”, to release natural gas and oil trapped between layers of dense shale rock found deep below the earth’s surface. When the well is completed, millions of gallons of water, mixed with sand, salts and up to 300 tons of chemicals are pumped into the well at high pressure to break up the shale, releasing the gas and oil. The “flowback” water returning to the surface contains fracking chemicals, highly concentrated salts, oil, grease, heavy metals and naturally occurring radioactive material. Normal water treatment facilities are unable to filter out hazardous chemicals and radiation in flow back water.

According to a 2015 EPA report *Hydraulic Fracturing Drinking Water Assessment*, the majority of the 453 chemicals used (on average per well) in fracturing spill have high potential to be persistant in the environment as long-term contaminants. “Of the chemicals that had values available, the health endpoints associated with those values include the potential for carcinogenesis, immune system effects, changes in body weight, changes in blood chemistry, cardio-toxicity, neurotoxicity, liver and kidney toxicity, and reproductive and developmental toxicity.” Also, more than 30% of the 151 fracturing fluid or chemical spills were from fluid storage units (e.g., tanks, totes, and trailers).

I am a nurse and mother of two small children (5 and 8). I grew up in a town (Southington) here in Connecticut with contaminated drinking water from Solvent Recovery spillage and saw the health impacts on a community. The waste byproducts from fracturing are known to be harmful to both the

environment and people. I believe the residents of Connecticut deserve to be protected from fracturing waste. If a spill occurs, which is highly likely based on the EPA study and review of past disposal and storage issues, then our residents will be impacted physically and fiscally for many years to come. We should take the precautionary approach to this matter and keep fracturing waste out of our state.

I hope that Connecticut will continue to champion legislation to protect the residents, the environment and future generations of Connecticut. Connecticut residents need your help to make our state a safer and healthier place to live in.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your commitment to the health of Connecticut residents. I urge your strong support of **SB 103, AAC HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT.**

Hacah Boros, RN, MSN
Coordinator of Environmental Health
Connecticut Nurses Association
Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut

Resources:
-Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments: https://envirn.org/energy-and-health/
-EPA: www.epa.gov/hfstudy