

Please pass Senate Bill 103, and amend it to include all wastes from gas AND oil drilling and extraction.

I have become alarmed enough to become a citizen activist toward the purpose of protecting Connecticut from exposure to drilling wastes. In Hamden, we have formed a group named Waste Not, Frack Not. We have collectively spent many, many hours learning about the risks to public health and governmental solvency posed by these energy extraction technologies. We have spent equal hours learning about our town's political processes, in order to achieve action at that level.

Because the State of Connecticut failed to pass a ban in 2014, various stop-gap actions have afforded patchwork protection that does not bear too much inspection. States producing drilling wastes are sending them in liquid and solid form to other states: for instance, PA sends waste to 8 other states. Fracking wastewaters have been measured at more than 1.9 billion gallons from PA in 2014 alone, generated from a process that shows no signs of stopping. The wastes are high enough in bromides to pose significant risks if released into chlorinated water. These fluids are pushed at sufficient pressure to shatter shale in order for oil and gas to be released: they are then impregnated with the radium and radioactivity that exists within the shale. Most spills occur during transport. Over 9 years, there have been 6,678 significant spills in 4 states.

It is sad to realize that without State level protection, municipalities have become the government level bearing safety concerns relative to interstate drilling wastes. Bridgeport houses the Tradebe Treatment plant, which has not been in violation of State regulations in only one quarter between 2013 to 2016. This vulnerable water treatment plant can be expected to receive drilling wastewater unless it is protected by government. Yet Bridgeport citizens, although beginning their activity, have not yet been able to organize a townwide ban.

The group Food and Water Watch has studied and compiled nonpolitical, scientific analyses of drilling wastes, and legal/political challenges to laws and regulations. I urge our Connecticut lawmakers to heed their specific and technical recommendations, and to pass the strongest conceivable protection against the release of these wastes in Connecticut, whether into our air or into our water and soil.