



**Betsy Gara**  
**Executive Director**  
**Connecticut Council of Small Towns**  
**Environment Committee**  
**Friday, February 23, 2018**

**S.B. No. 103, AN ACT CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT**

**COST requests that the Committee amend S.B. 103 to require DEEP to regulate, evaluate, and enforce fracturing waste in Connecticut.**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST), which represents approximately 110 small towns throughout Connecticut, **supports the intent of SB-103**, which would impose a statewide ban on accepting, receiving, collecting, storing, treating, transferring, or disposing of waste from hydraulic fracturing in Connecticut. However, we **request that the language be amended to require the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to regulate, evaluate, and enforce fracturing waste in Connecticut.**

Currently, Section 22a-472, C.G.S. imposes a moratorium on the disposal of natural gas hydraulic fracturing waste in Connecticut and requires DEEP to issue regulations regarding the handling of such waste by July 1, 2018. Unfortunately, DEEP has failed to adopt regulations. As a result, due to the potential health and safety risks associated with the storage of hydraulic fracturing waste, some towns are being asked to adopt local ordinances banning the storage of such waste within their communities.

Towns incur substantial costs in adopting local ordinances including; costs associated with retaining legal counsel and other consultants to research and draft the ordinance, holding and noticing public meetings and hearings, and convening and staffing meetings of the local governing body to approve the ordinance, etc. Moreover, the risks associated with the storage of waste from hydraulic fracturing have statewide implications which can potentially affect water and other natural resources and ecological habitats through accidents that are known to occur during the storage and/or transferal of such natural gas-based waste.

In addition to the costs associated with adopting local ordinances, small towns do not have the staff or expertise to enforce the ban on the local level. As such, a statewide approach is needed rather than a patchwork of local ordinances.

We are concerned that by eliminating DEEP's authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing waste, SB-103 may inadvertently shift responsibility to towns for regulation and enforcement.

Accordingly, **COST requests that the Committee amend the bill to require DEEP to regulate, evaluate and enforce fracturing waste in Connecticut.** If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Gara, Executive Director of COST at [bgara@ctcost.org](mailto:bgara@ctcost.org) or 860-841-7350

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.