

Testimony for Senate Bill 103

To: The Honorable Senator Miner, Senator Kennedy, Representative Demicco and distinguished members of the Environment Committee

Re: An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in CT

Date: February 20, 2018

As a founding member of Eastern Connecticut Green Action (ECGA), I am deeply concerned that SB 103 be adopted. A major project of ECGA has been the promotion of resolutions to ban fracking waste in the towns of our region. In all, more than 20 towns have adopted such resolutions in the last two years.

Our concern is the potential environmental impact that fracking waste would have, should such waste be permitted to enter our state. Since there is no natural gas drilling in CT, we do not have to be concerned with storing, transporting, and treating wastes from that process. It makes no sense to take on that task from other states.

As you know, the wastes from the fracking process are dangerous. They contain radioactive materials as well as a cocktail of toxic chemicals. Whatever economic benefits that may accrue from permitting wastes to cross the state line (brine for de-icing purposes, business for treatment plants, etc.) they do not outweigh the potential costs, costs that will be borne by CT taxpayers, not those who might be responsible for disasters.

The cost of cleaning up spills, for example, is both obvious and hidden. Contamination of our ground water cannot be easily measured, nor the long-term health costs from exposure to radioactivity or other toxins.

Allowing fracking waste to enter Connecticut means creating another set of regulations to monitor and manage the risks.

The state of Connecticut is in a budgetary crisis – we are unable to fund present commitments, never mind future expenses of environmental disasters that are inevitable when we consider the risks that are associated with the transport, storing and treating toxic wastes.

There is nothing to be gained by defeating SB 103. There are considerable advantages to its adoption.

Please permanently ban toxic radioactive fracking waste from Connecticut.

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