

Dear Members of the Environmental Committee,

Unfortunately I cannot attend the Public Hearing on SB103. However, please accept these comments as I urge you to pass SB 103 to create a permanent ban of waste from hydraulic fracturing from gas wells.

As you make your decisions, please consider the following:

Connecticut Has Failed to Ban All These Wastes

Current CT state law is a temporary moratorium with definitions that are incomplete and ambiguous. It mentions several types of wastes, but only wastes that come directly from or derived secondarily to the hydraulic fracturing process (the pumping of a chemical solution to create fractures in rock), and for gas wells only. This leaves out huge amounts of wastes that are created by the fracking industry.

The CT General Assembly has failed three times in five years to ban all of these wastes. Current state law mandates that DEEP submit regulations for review. A temporary moratorium only bans some wastes from gas wells, leaving loopholes for other wastes to enter the state. 2018 Senate Bill 103 proposes to change this law and ban waste from one process, hydraulic fracturing, from gas wells only.

Local Protection with Municipal Ordinance:

Citizen groups, town & city officials across Connecticut are passing local ordinances banning all oil & gas drilling, extraction and storage wastes. Connecticut municipalities have legal authority to pass these ordinances, pursuant to CT General Statute 7-148. The following municipalities have passed waste bans in this region:

36 CT towns & cities - Andover, Ashford, Bloomfield, Bolton, Branford, Bristol, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Eastford, East Hampton, Hampton, Glastonbury, Griswold, Hartford, Hebron, Lebanon, Litchfield, Mansfield, Meriden, Middletown, Milford,

New London, New Milford, Pomfret, Portland, Redding, Rocky Hill, Stratford, South Windsor, Thompson, Washington, Willington, Windham/Willimantic, Windsor, Woodstock.

400+ NY municipalities are protected from fracking wastes, due to laws passed by 15 NY county legislatures and local ordinances and regulations passed by town and city leaders.

- The entire state of Vermont; Pelham, MA; Dozens of municipalities and counties in New Jersey have also passed waste bans.

Parents and Grandparents: A radioactive legacy is being left for future generations where spills, accidents and discharge have occurred. Radium 226, commonly found in shale drilling waste, has a radioactive half-life of 1,600 years, takes over 4,000 years to completely decay, decays into other radioactive elements and finally, lead. Areas in other states are now permanently contaminated and being left without clean-up.

I urge you to support passing SB 103 and amend it to make it even stronger.

Thank you,

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