

February 20, 2018

Senator Ted Kennedy  
Senator Craig Miner  
Representative Mike Demicco

Dear Sens. Kennedy and Craig and Rep. Demicco

Thank you for your service on the Environment Committee. There are no more important natural resources than clean air and water. Cleaning up a toxic site is surely a challenge, having lived near the Thompson Brook M.H. Rhoades site in Avon, I can attest the cost of removing radium from the old plant was quite expensive and essential to protect the health of the citizens of our town and others coming to the area. How does that relate to today's hearing on SB 103, you may ask?

I am writing in support of SB 103: An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut, The prohibition of the receipt collection, storage, treatment and disposal of waste from hydraulic fracturing is an important issue for me as a Connecticut resident.

Although the hydraulic fracturing "fracking" process does not take place in CT, some have asked me, "why be concerned"? As you likely know already, the fracking process requires tens of thousands of gallons of water, moved by tanker trucks to the frack site. In the process of fracking, those same tens of thousands of gallons of water waste produced by the process, contains chemicals such as benzene, a known human carcinogen.<sup>1</sup> Although storage for the waste may take place on the site or in open ponds surrounding the site, it also is transported. Transport of this type of waste poses a contamination risk. In addition, it is also known that the chemically contaminated by-products not only contain benzene, but also other chemicals such as ammonium, bromide, and selenium, to name a few. Some of the wastes have not even been analyzed so we don't know what is even in them.

The volumes of waste being produced are increasing significantly with increasing fracking. Manufacturers or miners of the natural gas and oil will only need to seek additional ways to dispose of this waste will continue to look for places that do not have bans. We are near to two states that harvest the fracked material. It is only a matter of time before it will become attractive to perhaps use these products, unless we are proactive in banning their transport to our state as well as use of their by products. I don't want to see my town or other towns in CT have to spend significant dollars for clean up. But, more importantly, I do not want us to allow the transport of these products into the state to begin with, risking contamination of our roads, wetlands, waterways and air, and increasing risk for disease and potentially birth defects.

I urge the Ct Environment Committee to be pro-active in securing the public's health by passing this bill out of committee.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Robin C. Schwartz,  
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Avon CT 06001

1. IARC (1987). Summaries & evaluations: Benzene (Group 1). Lyon, International Agency for Research on Cancer, p. 120 (IARC Monographs on the Carcinogenicity of Chemicals to Humans, Supplement 7; <http://www.inchem.org/documents/iarc/suppl7/benzene.html>).
2. Brine Spills Associated with Unconventional Oil Development in North Dakota Nancy E. Lauer, Jennifer S. Harkness, and Avner Vengosh  
Environmental Science & Technology 2016 50 (10), 5389-5397  
DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.5b06349