

Written Testimony of the Rev. Kent J. Siladi, Conference Minister of the United Church of Christ in Connecticut Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee

February 22, 2018

Senate Bill 103, An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut

Honorable Senator Miner, Senator Kennedy, Representative Demicco and distinguished members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my strong support of Senate Bill 103 to permanently prohibit the receipt, collection, storage, treatment and disposal of hydraulic fracturing waste in Connecticut.

I support this bill both as a resident of Connecticut, and as a leader of United Church of Christ congregations in the state of Connecticut. Regardless of how well-regulated a hazardous waste is, accidents happen. Containers leak. Major emergency weather events such as Sandy or Irene come through and wreak havoc on the best-laid plans to keep neighbors safe from leaks or spills. Trucks get in accidents, rollover, and spill their contents into rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands, farmlands, and in neighborhoods. This potentially radioactive toxic waste is impossible to remediate if it is released into the environment, and it's just not worth the risk, period. None of us can guarantee that any of the above scenarios will not take place.

I support this bill as a grandparent concerned for the future that my grandchildren will grow up in. I do not want them choking on the diesel fumes of the thousands upon thousands of trucks that will be driving toxic wastewater through our region. I want them to be able to confidently play in our waterways and woods without worry of exposure to toxic chemicals or radiation.

I support this bill as a witness to climate change. I do not support the practice of fracking, and in our climate-unstable world, we need to shift our resources towards renewable energy, now. The leaking methane (a potent greenhouse gas contributing to climate change), the flammable water, the poisoned waterways and earthquakes in places that don't normally experience them are all unacceptable.

I support this bill as a citizen concerned about clean water resources. Against the backdrop of intense droughts, more intense and powerful wildfires, chemical spills and pipeline leaks into water sources, and corporate water-grabbing, the practice of using 2-4 million gallons of fresh water per fracking site is simply irresponsible and an abomination.

I support this bill as a Connecticut taxpayer, who does not want to pay for the increased road repairs that can be expected as the roads experience rapid deterioration from the myriad heavy truck trips.

Thank you again for the opportunity to bear witness and to provide testimony in support of SB103, to permanently prohibit the storage, disposal, handling and use of hydraulic fracturing waste in Connecticut.

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