



State of Connecticut

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Testimony in Support of SB 103 **Environment Committee** **February 21, 2018**

Chairmen Kennedy, Miner and Demicco, Ranking Member Harding and Members of the Environment Committee, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of **Senate Bill 103: An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut.**

Hydraulic fracturing is a process used to extract natural gas by injecting fluids consisting of water, sand, and chemicals at high pressure "fracturing" shale formations to allow gas to flow into collection wells on the surface. This process produces a high volume of wastewater that must be treated, recycled or disposed. In many states, this waste product has been used as a deicing agent on local roads and bridges. In other instances, the waste materials have been used as land fill. This is of particular concern as the waste substance contains high concentrations of chemical pollutants and radioactive particles toxic to humans, animals, groundwater supplies and the environment.

New York, Massachusetts and Vermont are among several states that have banned hydraulic fracturing operations. Connecticut placed a temporary moratorium on the use, storage, disposal of fracking waste in 2014, and to date, 19 Connecticut towns have enacted local ordinances prohibiting the sale, storage, transport and use of fracking waste within their borders.

The Town of Windsor, Connecticut enacted such an ordinance in January of 2017, and by unanimous resolution of its Town Council, petitioned its state legislative delegation to support a permanent ban of fracking waste materials in the State of Connecticut. Last session, HB 6329 was initially co-introduced by Representatives Zawistowski (R-61st), Storms (R-60th), and Baram (D-15th) in response. This committee forwarded the issue to the House which approved the measure, but the matter was not taken up by the Senate.

Given the serious and substantial environmental risks and hazards to public safety associated with fracturing waste, I ask the Committee to once again support the concept of a permanent and continuing ban on sale storage and use of fracturing waste in Connecticut as set forth in SB-103, and to support the passage of the bill by General Assembly this year. Thank you for your consideration.