



*Connecticut Chapter*  
*P.O. Box 270595*  
*West Hartford, Connecticut 06127*  
[ctsierraclub.wixsite.com/sierraclub-ct](http://ctsierraclub.wixsite.com/sierraclub-ct)

Dear Senator Miner, Senator Kennedy, Representative Demicco, and members of the Environment Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club and our more than nine thousand members in the state, to ask for your support of Raised Senate Bill Number 346.

The Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club has been concerned about fracked gas leaks since 2015, when we conducted an objective study measuring gas leaks in the city of Hartford. This study found that approximately 43,000 cubic feet of gas per day, or 313 metric tons per year, are leaked from gas pipelines in Hartford. This is enough fuel to power 214 U.S. households annually. The leaks that were measured were at least five times higher than the rate of leaks that PURA, the gas pipeline safety monitor in our state, records.

While the industry concedes that gas pipelines leak about two percent annually, objective research has consistently found pipelines leaking at higher rates, which accords with the results of our 2015 study.

Fracked or “natural” gas is ninety seven percent methane. Methane is the second most common greenhouse gas in our atmosphere, and is much more powerful at causing global heating than carbon dioxide. Methane is a short term pollutant, and over the lifespan of the gas, which is about ten years, it can be one hundred times stronger than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. The EPA and DEEP use outdated figures when they measure the harmfulness of methane, which is usually compared with carbon dioxide over a one hundred year span because carbon dioxide persists in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. Over one hundred years, methane is only about thirty times more harmful than carbon dioxide. However, this under measurement disguises the real and immediate threat of methane to our climate.

Now that three new fracked gas pipeline expansion projects have been completed in Connecticut (Kinder Morgan’s CT Expansion, and the AIM and Atlantic Bridge on the Algonquin line), we can only assume that with increased gas transport come increased leaks.

The Connecticut Chapter Sierra Club supports Raised Senate Bill Number 346, because it creates no tolerance for gas leaks and would force an immediate response and rapid repair. This will increase not only the safety of residents of our state, but will benefit our climate, and reduce consumer costs, as ratepayers currently pay for lost gas which is leaked, under Public Act 14-152.

Respectfully,  
Martha Klein  
Chapter Chair  
Connecticut Chapter Sierra Club

***Phone: 860-542-5225***

***-- Email: [Connecticut.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:Connecticut.chapter@sierraclub.org)***