

Honorable Chairs Senator Cohen and Representative Demicco and distinguished members of the Committee,

Thank you for, again, considering **H.B. No. 5344 (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING OFF-SHORE DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS IN CONNECTICUT. (ENV)**

**I support this bill with a suggested amendment**

There is no way to protect the fisheries and water quality of the Long Island Sound if drilling activity begins.

As example, drilling activity repeatedly pollutes the Gulf of Mexico. The Deepwater Horizon blow out was just one, but horrific example of repeated spills and leaks that are ongoing today. The delay of repair or shutting down of a well allows pollution to continue while slow regulatory action and/or lawsuits ensue. Reports directly from the drilling industry show rates of leaking wells in the Gulf of Mexico ranging from single digits up to 50%.

Leaking occurs under a variety of conditions, none of which has been able to be controlled by the drilling industry:

- if installation is done incorrectly and then wells fail early
- from aging of a well which results in natural shrinkage of cement well casings
- corrosion of metal pipe and valve connections due to acids or age
- damage to casings caused by unmanageable pressure.

Federal laws are also lax regarding which pollutants and wastes are allowed to be released into waters. The same wastes that CT banned from being imported for processing at CT's hazardous waste facilities are routinely released into open waters where drilling has been permitted offshore.

This bill can be improved by prohibiting on-shore drilling for oil and gas as well. Current state law merely says that on-shore drilling activity requires a permit from DEEP. Rather than put DEEP through burdensome regulatory procedures, which will not be able stop accidents, spills or noncompliance, on-shore drilling in CT should also be banned.

The US Geological Survey studied the Hartford Basin in 2012. They determined that gas likely exists in shale rock deposits in CT. It is a thin layer of rock, which makes it commercially less attractive than thick seams found in states to our west. However, when more attractive reserves are exhausted, the gas industry will be looking for new opportunities, and the Hartford Basin stretches from New Haven to the Massachusetts border, and extends for miles on either side of the Connecticut River.

Thank you,

Jen Siskind

Glastonbury, CT