



Testimony **IN SUPPORT OF SB 753 AN ACT CONCERNING THE
STATE-WIDE BAN ON FRACKING WASTE**

February 4th, 2019

To: Senator Cohen, Representative Demicco and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **IN SUPPORT of SB 753**, An Act Concerning the State-Wide Ban on Fracking Waste.

Fracking waste contains dozens of chemicals — such as mercury, arsenic and lead — strongly linked to developmental or reproductive health problems. In addition, fracking waste contains radioactive materials, such as Radium-226 and Radium-228, and carcinogens such as benzene. Groundwater and water sources adjacent to fracking wastewater storage facilities are in danger of becoming contaminated by these toxic materials.

While Connecticut does not conduct fracking activities, Connecticut is located near Pennsylvania, a central hub of the fracking boom. **We cannot allow Pennsylvania — or other states — to dispose of their hazardous fracking waste in Connecticut.** A statewide ban on fracking waste would also prohibit the de-icing of roads with fracking waste, which poses additional threats to our communities and environment. A ban would also ensure that fracking waste could not be transported through our state, avoiding accidental spills of toxic waste should a serious accident occur during transport.

In recent years, dozens of Connecticut municipalities have passed local ordinances that ban fracking waste. Connecticut residents understand the threat of fracking waste in their communities. **Permanently banning fracking waste is a move to protect Connecticut residents.** On behalf of the CT League of Conservation Voters, thank you for considering this testimony as you deliberate a permanent ban on fracking waste in our state.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Fracking, also known as hydraulic fracturing, is the process of pumping fluid into ground to create fractures in rock for the production of natural gas and oil. The entire drilling and extraction process creates huge amounts of liquid and solid hazardous wastes. While fracking itself is not happening in Connecticut, our state could become a dumping ground for the unwanted waste produced from fracking in other states.

This concern prompted our State legislature to adopt a temporary moratorium on certain activities associated with fracking waste from gas drilling in Connecticut under Public Act 14-200.

Why prohibit fracking waste in Connecticut?

The drilling and extraction process of even a single shale well can produce over a million gallons of toxic radioactive wastewater and hundreds of tons of potentially radioactive solid waste. Oil and gas drilling wastes are a toxic soup of carcinogens (naphthalene, benzene, acrylamide and radium - causing breast, bone, liver and other cancers) environmental toxins (toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene - causing nervous system, kidney or liver harm) and contaminants (arsenic, lead, hexavalent chromium and radioactive radium-226 which has a half-life of 1600 yrs.) Yet, waste byproducts and brine from wells are used in some states for de-icing roads, as construction fill and brownfield capping, a concern prompting many Connecticut towns to move ahead of DEEP by adopting local ordinances banning fracking waste, with additional towns currently working toward such bans.

Bringing this dangerous waste to Connecticut for disposal via thousands of additional tanker trucks on our roadways poses the risk of accidents, spills, and contamination of private and public lands, drinking and surface waters, and costly repairs to road and publicly-owned treatment systems. Connecticut is one of the smallest and most densely populated states in the nation, and this activity would threaten resident health and risk land and water resources and property values forever. We know that waste from over 10,000 fracked wells in Pennsylvania (one of the most radioactive shale deposits in the nation) is currently being shipped to at least 8 states, and Connecticut is targeted to be one of the recipients.

What needs to be done now?

Citizens want the State to take action to permanently prohibit the disposal, treatment, storage, handling, de-icing applications and other uses of fracking waste and by-products anywhere in Connecticut. Like our neighboring state of Vermont, we need to take final steps to protect all 169 of our Connecticut towns and cities. CTLCV urges you to support SB 753 to make the ban on fracking waste permanent.

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