

Written Testimony of Pamela Arifian, Director of the United Church of Christ
Northeast Environmental Justice Center Before the Connecticut General Assembly
Environment Committee

February 19, 2018

Written Testimony for
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 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 as a resident of Connecticut, and as an advocate for environmental justice. 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.

I support this bill as a mother concerned for the future that my child will grow up in. I do not want her choking on the diesel fumes of the thousands upon thousands of trucks that will be driving toxic wastewater through our region. I want her 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 an advocate for environmental justice. I do not want this public health threat in my backyard, nor anyone else's. Invariably, this waste will end up in or near the neighborhoods where historically marginalized communities live, and that is not right.

I support this bill as an educator of and 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.

Pamela Arifian

227 Low Road

Sharon, CT 06069