MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT  
Permanently Prohibiting Fracking Waste in Connecticut

SB 753- AAC Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut

BACKGROUND
Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) wastes and fracking waste by-products pose inherent risks to our environment and health, due to the wide variety of toxic chemical compounds used in the fracking process, as well as the potential for contamination with high levels of naturally occurring radioactive materials. The CT General Assembly passed a law in 2014 (PA 14-200) establishing a three year moratorium on the storage, treatment and disposal of hydraulic fracturing waste in our state. The law required the CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to develop regulations to ensure any fracking waste products brought into Connecticut does not pose an adverse risk to our air, water and soil resources or public health. Unfortunately, DEEP has missed the July 2018 deadline and indicated that that the agency is ill equipped to carry out this process.

Fracking waste comes in multiple forms, including drill cuttings, flowback fluids, and production brine, all of which typically contain a highly concentrated cocktail of toxic chemicals used in the fracking process. Those waste products may additionally be contaminated with high levels of radiation due to Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORMs), including Radium-226, which has a half-life of over 1,600 years. Radon (a decay product of Radium-226) is the leading cause of cancer among non-smokers, and Radium-226 is linked to bone, liver and breast cancer. The radioactivity of production brines from vertical wells drilled in New York’s Marcellus Shale was found to exceed Safe Drinking Water Act standards by up to 320,500%.

JUSTIFICATION
Research shows that state regulators have drastically underestimated the true radioactivity of liquid and solid fracking waste products, by relying on technology that is inadequate for accurately measuring radiation levels in highly concentrated production brines. This makes it increasingly difficult to identify and address radioactive materials coming into our state, in an efficient, real-time and cost effective manner. DEEP has neither the resources, the manpower, nor the technical expertise to ensure that fracking waste entering our state does not pose an undue public health risk. CCE supports establishing a permanent prohibition on fracking waste in Connecticut, which is comprehensive and complementary to the strong local ordinances that have been enacted in more than 55 communities throughout Connecticut.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS SB 753- PERMANENT PROHIBITION ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT

Citizens Campaign for the Environment is an 80,000 member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment.