



CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR
REGARDING
HB-5308, AAC THE REGULATION OF FRACKING WASTE; and
SB-237, AA PROHIBITING THE STORAGE OR DISPOSAL OF FRACKING WASTE IN
CONNECTICUT
BEFORE THE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 28, 2014**

A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees. NFIB membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to "Main Street" small businesses to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, I offer the following comments:

Regarding HB-5308 and SB-237, NFIB/Connecticut would like to point out that hydraulic fracturing has been important to providing small businesses with the affordable and reliable energy they need to operate and grow. Yet, even in states where fracking has been approved, projects are still be subject to review that can halt or delay critical energy projects for years. This kind of uncertainty, coupled with the interstate can stifle development and small businesses ability to plan future investment. The cost of energy remains one of the top concerns of small business owners, who rely on affordable energy to operate their businesses successfully. According to the 2012 edition of NFIB's Small Business Problems and Priorities, "Cost of Natural Gas, Propane, Gasoline, Diesel, Fuel Oil" ranked as the third-most important priority among NFIB's members. Nearly 35 percent of respondents cited energy costs as a "critical" issue to their business. Additionally, according to NFIB's Energy Consumption poll, energy costs are one of the top three business expenses in 35 percent of small businesses. Providing more affordable energy will directly help small businesses reduce the impact high energy prices have on their business. Therefore, NFIB/Connecticut suggests that any regulatory action Connecticut may take regarding fracking waste needs to be reasonable, not make the state an economic outlier in regard to such a policy, and not have the possible unintended consequences of decreasing supply or reliability or increasing costs for the many small businesses and consumers that increasingly rely upon natural gas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of NFIB/Connecticut.