



The Energy and Technology Committee

Public Hearing, March 7, 2013

Office of Consumer Counsel

Elin Swanson Katz, Consumer Counsel

Testimony of Elin Swanson Katz

H.B. 6533, An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the ratepayer advocate on issues relating to electricity, natural gas, water, and telecom issues. OCC is supportive of the concepts in this bill. At this time, questions remain around the technological feasibility of treating hydraulic fracturing waste without risk to, among other things, water quality. Until such questions are resolved and the state has determined that such waste can be safely treated and discharged or otherwise disposed of, or used in other processes without environmental risk, it appears to be in consumers' best interest, particularly consumers of water, to prohibit such activities within the state.