



April 9, 2024

Senator Caballero, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee
 State Capitol, Room 412
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1280 (Laird) Waste Management: Propane Cylinders: Reusable or Refillable - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Caballero,

On behalf of the listed organizations, we are pleased to support SB 1280 (Laird), which would prohibit the sale of disposable propane cylinders, as defined, and would make the violation of this provision subject to specified civil penalties.

Local government solid waste and recycling operations are responsible for the collection, processing, recycling, and disposal of various forms of waste. Local agencies and their contractors – funded by local ratepayers – are responsible for managing residential and commercial waste streams. Some consumer products are expensive to process while others pose significant environmental, public health, or occupational safety and health concerns.

One consumer product that has been a longtime concern is the single-use 1 lb. propane cylinder (also known as propane tank), typically used in camping stoves, lanterns, welding equipment, and more. It is estimated that between 40-60 million of these single-use 1 lb. propane cylinders are sold in the United States every year. California accounts for more than 10% of the population of the United States, so we can safely estimate that somewhere between 4 and 7 million single-use 1 lb. propane cylinders are sold into California each year. These small 1 lb. propane cylinders are the only propane cylinders that are sold as single-use. All other propane cylinders 5 gallons (20 lb.) or

larger have always been refillable and designed and marketed for refilling.

Disposable propane cylinders are also problematic from a safety perspective. In most situations, it is impossible to know whether a cylinder is completely empty. If a cylinder ends up at a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) with complex machinery used to separate materials, there is a risk of explosion that could cause injury to personnel and damage to infrastructure. This is part of what contributes to the exorbitant cost of collecting and recycling these cylinders. In order to be safely recycled, each cylinder must be evacuated and then punctured using special equipment to ensure that they are safely processed.

Local, state, and national parks have long struggled with the impacts of improperly disposed single-use 1 lb. propane cylinders. A 2019 article from Waste 360 reported that the Yosemite National Park collects between 20,000 and 25,000 tanks a year and trucks them more than two hours away to a facility that processes low-grade hazardous waste. One of Yosemite's recent sustainability initiatives focused on reducing improper disposal of propane tanks by promoting use of refillable tanks. As a result, the only cylinders now available for purchase inside of Yosemite are refillable cylinders.

For the many reasons described above, we strongly **SUPPORT SB 1280 (Laird)** and urge your support when the bill is heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,



Doug Kobold, Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council



Larry Klein, Mayor
City of Sunnyvale



Nate Miley, President
Alameda County Board of Supervisors



David E. Fahrion, President
California Waste & Recycle Association



Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director
Zero Waste Sonoma



Lauren Molinari, Director of Administration
California Resource Recovery Association



Jonathan Simpson, Director of Advocacy
Little Kamper LP



Timothy Burroughs, Executive Director
StopWaste



Nick Lapis, Director of Advocacy
Californians Against Waste



Shell Cleave, Founder
Sea Hugger



Chris Hanson, President
Solid Waste Association of North America
Legislative Task Force



Larry Klein, Chair
Recycling & Waste Reduction Commission of
Santa Clara County



Suzanne Hume, Educational Director & Founder
CleanEarth4Kids.org



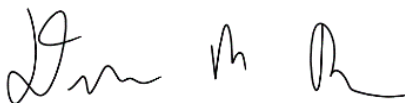
Joe La Mariana, Executive Director
RethinkWaste



Kevin Bell, Executive Director
Western Placer Waste Management Authority



Susy Borlido, Co-Executive Director
Sustainable Works



David Bender, Chief Executive Officer
Circular Polymers



Blake Inscore, Chair
Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority



Miguel A. Villapudua, Chairman
San Joaquin County



Michael Caprio, Director of Government Affairs
Republic Services



Felipe Melchor, General Manager
ReGen Monterey



Christine Wolfe, Director of Government Affairs,
California, Hawaii, and Nevada
WM