



June 18, 2024

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, Chair  
 Assembly Appropriations  
 1021 O Street, Suite 8140  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Assemblymember Wicks,

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 on the Senate Floor.

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



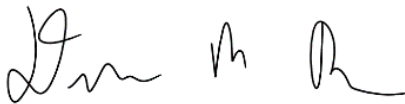
Joe La Mariana, Executive Director  
RethinkWaste




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  
WM



Albert C. Adam, Mayor  
City of Thousand Oaks



Scott Cassel, CEO  
Product Stewardship Institute

*Bailey Hall*

Bailey Hall, Leg. Co-Chair, Board Member  
Northern California Recycling Association

*Garen Kazanjian*

Garen Kazanjian, Public Policy Manager  
Recology Inc.