



June 7, 2022

Assemblymember Luz Rivas, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources  
Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1256 (Wieckowski) Waste management: disposable propane cylinders - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Rivas,

On behalf of the listed organizations, we are pleased to support SB 1256 (Wieckowski), 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 are the single-use 11b propane cylinders (also known as propane tanks) typically used in camping stoves, lanterns, welding equipment, and more. It is estimated that between 40-60 million of these single-use 11b propane cylinders are sold in the United States every year. California accounts for roughly 12% of the population of the United States, so we can safely estimate that somewhere between 4.8 and 7.2 million single-use 11b propane cylinders are sold into California each year. These small 11b propane cylinders are the only propane cylinders that are sold as single-use. All other propane cylinders 5 gallons (20lb) 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 or damage to infrastructure. This is part of what contributes to the cost of collecting and recycling these cylinders. In order to be safely recycled, they 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 11lb 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 sustainability initiatives is focused on reducing improper disposal of propane tanks by promoting use of refillable tanks. As a result, the only cylinders available for purchase inside of Yosemite are refillable.

For the many reasons described above, we strongly **SUPPORT SB 1256 (Wieckowski)** and urge your support when the bill is heard in Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

Sincerely,



Doug Kobold, Executive Director  
California Product Stewardship Council



Vince De Lange, General Manager  
Delta Diablo



Jonathon "Josh" Simpson, Vice President  
Little Kamper, LP



Kevin Bell, Deputy Executive Director  
Western Placer Waste Management Authority



Shell Cleave, Founder  
Sea Hugger



Joe La Mariana, Executive Director  
Rethink Waste



Jordan Wells, Director of Advocacy  
and Communications  
National Stewardship Action Council



Susan Stephenson, Executive Director  
California Interfaith Power & Light



Robert Engler, Mayor  
City of Thousand Oaks



David Farion, President  
California Waste & Recycle Association




Nick Lapis, Director of Advocacy  
Californians Against Waste



Laura Ferrante, Government Affairs Advocate  
Resource Recovery Coalition of California



Laura McKaughan, President  
California Resource Recovery Association



Blake Inscore, Chair  
Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority



Larry Klein, Mayor  
Sunnyvale



Timothy Burrows  
StopWaste



Leslie Robinson  
County of Santa Barbara