

Supes back propane canister ban

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HUMBOLDT – What’s described as a “problematic” waste item is targeted in a proposed state law and Humboldt County’s Board of Supervisors wants the legislation to be approved.

At the July 12 board meeting, Supervisor Mike Wilson sponsored a letter to Senator Mike McGuire in support of SB 1256, which would ban the sale of disposable propane fuel containers.

The bill is advanced by state Senator Bob Weickowski and if passed the ban will take effect Jan. 1, 2028.

Wilson said the camping-sized disposable canisters “have become a pretty significant issue in our parks as well as in our waste stream.”

Refillable canisters would take their place if the law goes into effect. Wilson said refillable containers already exist and there are refilling locations in the county.

Supervisor Michelle Bushnell has concerns about refill access but Wilson noted that the law has a five-year phase-in period.

Disposables can cause trouble at recycling centers. “The problem is that people don’t know if there’s still gas in them,” Wilson said. “In our waste stream, this is probably one of the more problematic issues that we have.”

The letter says that “if a cylinder ends up at a recovery facility with complex machinery used to separate materials, there is a risk of explosion that could cause injury to employees or damage to the facility.”

There’s a large amount of “improperly disposed” canisters at parks and other recreational areas, according to the letter.

“While they serve the individuals and families that camp and use Humboldt locations, these canisters are then left for the local facilities to separate and recycle,” the letter says.

Supervisors unanimously approved sending it.

