



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

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July 12, 2022

The Honorable Senator Mike McGuire  
1303 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 5061  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1256 (Wieckowski) Waste Management: Disposable Propane Cylinders - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator McGuire,

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, 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. Some consumer products are expensive to process while others pose significant environmental, public health, or occupational safety and health concerns.

Single-use 1 pound propane cylinders (also known as propane tanks) typically used in camping stoves, lanterns, welding equipment, and more are a product of concern. It is estimated that between 40-60 million of these single use propane cylinders are sold in the United States every year. These small 1-pound propane cylinders are the only propane product that is sold for single-use. All other propane cylinders are sold in 5 pound or larger refillable cylinders, thus limiting their waste volume and detriment.

There is also a safety element with the disposable propane cylinders. In most situations it is impossible to know whether a cylinder is complete empty. 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. This is part of what contributed to the cost of collecting and recycling this product. In order to safely recycle, they have to be gathered and handled using special equipment and procedures.

Local, state, and national parks have long struggled with impacts on improperly disposed single-use propane cylinders. We have multiple parks and facilities that have been dealing with these waste issues due to the high volume of discarded 1-pound cylinders. 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. Due to environmental concerns and safety risks as seen above, we support SB 1256.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

CC: California State Association of Counties  
Rural County Representatives of California  
Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.