



FLOOR ALERT SB 1280 (Laird): Propane Cylinders: Reusable or Refillable SUPPORT

The above organizations urge your **support of SB 1280 (Laird)**, which would prohibit the sale of non-refillable propane cylinders.

Non-refillable 1 lb. propane cylinders have been problematic products in our waste stream. Every year, it is estimated 40-60 million of these single-use 1 lb. propane cylinders are sold, with over 10% (4-7 million) in California alone. These small 1 lb. propane cylinders are the **only** propane cylinders that are sold as non-refillable. 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 an 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.

Only about 1 million are collected and recycled through the Household Hazardous Waste programs offered by local governments. With an average per cylinder costing \$3.00 for collection and proper

recycling. Calculating the cost of transporting and processing these items, local governments, using ratepayer funds, are likely spending upwards of \$3 million per year to handle this relatively small waste stream. The majority of the remaining three million or more disposable propane cylinders end up in landfills.

VOTE “AYE” ON SB 1280