Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Katie S. Dykes

Senate Bill No. 414 - An Act Concerning Product Stewardship of Certain Pressurized Gas Cylinders

Senator Cohen, Representative Demicco, Senator Miner, Representative Harding, and distinguished members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Senate Bill No. 414 – An Act Concerning Product Stewardship of Certain Pressurized Gas Cylinders. The purpose of this bill is to establish a product stewardship program for gas cylinders.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) supports this bill because it would provide a manufacturer-funded program for the proper end of life management of gas cylinders.

DEEP has had ongoing and persistent problems with propane gas cylinders left in state parks. These cylinders are not refillable and currently cost DEEP ten dollars per cylinder to dispose of properly. Municipalities and private campgrounds encounter the same challenges. Cylinders disposed in the trash contribute to risks of explosions and fires at waste processing facilities.

We note that the one pound cylinder limit described in the bill covers many, but not all, camping-sized propane gas cylinders. We suggest increasing the size limit to ensure that all commonly-used nonrefillable cylinders would be included.

A manufacturer-financed program, similar to existing programs for paint (Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec 22a-904) and mattresses (Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec 22a-905), would ensure these cylinders are recycled and save the state and municipalities tens of thousands of dollars annually.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mandi Careathers, the Department’s legislative liaison, at Mandi.Careathers@ct.gov.