

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5142
AN ACT CONCERNING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR
Title: CERTAIN GAS CYLINDERS.
Vote Date: 3/4/2022
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 2/25/2022
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Joseph P. Gresko, 121st Dist.
Rep. Maria P. Horn 64th Dist.
Rep. David Michel 146th Dist.
Rep. Josh Elliott 88th Dist.
Rep. Geraldo C. Reyes 75th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

To fix a problematic condition in our waste stream and to ensure that gas containers can be dangerous and may explode if not are emptied and recycled in a proper way.

Substitute Language – LCO number 2690

Made some minor technical changes for clarification

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Energy & Environmental Protection

Deep supports the extended producer responsibility (EPR) EPR programs are an important strategy for managing our states solid waste. Product stewardship solutions are an effective tool to meet the states diversion goals. Product stewardship programs acknowledge the important roll in managing products that consumers, government and manufactures play. Gas cylinders are a problematic material in the waste stream. These may be responsible for explosions and while they have scrap metal value them must be emptied of all gas before hand making them expensive for municipalities to manage.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Bisi Mike, Sanitation Superintendent, Glastonbury

Glastonbury and communities through out state face substantial challenges with pressurized gas cylinders. These often contain gas and other hazardous substances and pose a safety hazard to staff and community members. There are limited resources for recycling this material and will continue to present a challenge with the EPR bill.

John Carrington, Director of Public Works, Town Engineer, Town of Mansfield

We have an outlet for twenty pound propane cylinders but most municipalities in Connecticut do not. One pound cylinders are taken by scrap dealers even though it is dangerous and have been know to explode if not de-valved. This bill supports our effort in moving the burden of packaging from municipalities to the manufacturers.

Scott Cassel, Chief Executive Officer – Product Stewardship Institute

We support the bill with modifications as contained in our testimony. A successful EPR programs key elements are included in the stewardship plan and the program would require producers to internalize the costs of the program instead of charging citizens a separate fee at point of sale. Gas cylinders are dangerous when disposed of improperly. Mandated EPR programs like the OrangeDrop in Ontario, Canada have made refilling and exchange outlets successful and readily available to everyone.

COST

We support the bill along with changes that would ensure that these cylinders are repurposed, reused, recertified, requalified, recycled safely ahead of disposal. The creation of an EPR program may help to alleviate the current burden on municipalities and the ongoing recycling dilemma in Connecticut.

John Decker, President, Oakridge Waste and Recycling

As one of the state's largest single stream Material Reduction Facility and a resource for many municipalities we know the safety concern for our employees and these cylinders. Even with our pre-sorting these cylinders can be difficult to get rid of from a market stand point.

Donna Hamzy, Advocacy Manager CCM

A properly designed stewardship program for gas cylinders is the solution for improving and promoting the proper collection of these products. These cylinders will then be repurposed, reused, recertified, requalified, recycled and disposed of properly.

Jennifer Heaton-Jones Executive Director, HRRRA

HRRRA would like to recognize the collaborative efforts made by Worthington Industries and the other stakeholders who have worked to develop a solution to the end-of life management of gas cylinders. We recommend the suggestions outlined in Worthington's testimony.

NATURE AND SOURCE OF OPPOSITION

David Gable, President, Hocon Gas, Inc

My company has been in the propane business since 1952 and employ 120 individuals and service 35,000 customers. Propane barbeque cylinders were commonly refilled at propane facilities and retail locations. Propane retailers picked up the damaged or old tanks and would drain those tanks and remove the valves to scrap them. About 15 years ago we began installing 20 pound propane tank exchange cages because of the ease to the consumer. The small "disposable" cylinders are not sold by the propane retailers and are not a part of our business and should not become our responsibility.

Reported by: Pamela Bianca

Date: March 23, 2022