



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

April 12, 2023

The Honorable John Laird
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 560 – Support in Concept
As Amended March 22, 2023**

Dear Senator Laird:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we are pleased to support your Senate Bill 560, regarding end-of-life management of gas cylinders. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

Senate Bill 560 seeks to require manufacturers of gas cylinders with a capacity of less than 20 pounds to establish a stewardship program and take responsibility for the end-of-life management of the products they introduce into the marketplace. Our member counties are responsible for the collection, processing, recycling and disposal of solid waste, including the operation of local household hazardous waste collection programs.

Small, disposable gas cylinders are commonly sold and used in the state for a variety of purposes, including in many recreation and business-related activities that are important to rural economies. Unfortunately, small gas cylinders are very expensive for local governments to manage in the waste stream, and it is nearly impossible to know whether a cylinder is completely empty. Without knowing whether a cylinder is completely empty, our programs must handle those cylinders as hazardous wastes, which significantly increases management and disposal costs and administrative burdens. While some larger gas cylinders are refillable, the vast majority of small gas cylinders are single-use disposable products with little consideration given to end-of-life management or reuse.

While we support SB 560 in concept as a framework upon which a producer responsibility system will be built, we believe it is vital to include several specific components in order to ensure program success and minimize the externalization of costs

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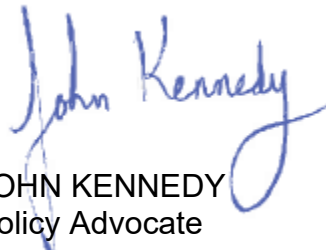
onto local governments and taxpayers. We believe SB 560 should integrate some of the product stewardship components and standards found in other similar programs, including the mattress and battery stewardship programs. These include:

- Establishing clear program performance and collection standards
- Ensuring that the program will provide free and convenient collection opportunities for consumers and businesses
- Ensuring that local government solid waste facilities and household hazardous waste collection facilities can serve as collection centers and will be fully reimbursed for costs of collection, transportation, management, and disposal

We understand that SB 560 is very much a work in progress; however, with these important changes, RCRC believes that SB 560 will create a robust and successful program that ensures convenient disposal opportunities while avoiding externalization of costs onto the backs of local governments and taxpayers.

For the above reasons, RCRC is pleased to support your SB 560 in concept, and we look forward to working with you to integrate into the bill some of the core components outlined above. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY
Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Benjamin Allen, Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Brynn Cook, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Scott Seekatz, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus