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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



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TESTIMONY OF

**BRIAN BENESKI, SUPERVISOR, RECYCLING PROGRAMS, DIVISION OF
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT IN THE BUREAU OF REMEDIATION & WASTE
MANAGEMENT**

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SPEAKING NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 1035

**RESOLVE, TO STUDY THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF SINGLE-USE PROPANE
CANISTERS**

SPONSORED BY REPRESENTATIVE RANA

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

DATE OF HEARING:

MARCH 24, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, I am Brian Beneski, Supervisor of Recycling Programs in the Division of Materials Management within the Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management at the Department of Environmental Protection, speaking neither for nor against L.D. 1035.

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L.D. 1035, as printed, would require the Department to conduct a study and make recommendations to the legislature by December 3, 2025, regarding the current infrastructure for disposal of single-use propane canisters. The bill requires that the Department evaluate the viability of establishing a ban on the disposal of these items.

The Department already has the authority to evaluate whether single-use propane canisters meet the criteria to be a candidate for a product stewardship program under 38 M.R.S. § 1772(2). In addition, single-use propane canisters also meet the definition of packaging under 38 M.R.S. § 2146, Maine's Stewardship Program for Packaging, and therefore will be included in the program's implementation in 2027. Because there are already pathways to manage single-use propane canisters in Maine law via stewardship programs, the Department does not see any reason to evaluate a ban of these items. Implementing and enforcing a ban will not necessarily make it any easier for consumers to dispose of these common items, and therefore they may be more effectively managed through product stewardship.

Under the Stewardship Program for Packaging, producers sending single-use propane canisters into the state will be required to report their sales of this packaging material and pay a fee based on the cost of handling this material and the amount each producer of these canisters sends into the State. This program also provides an opportunity for producers of packaging to establish an alternative collection program to collect and manage their packaging. Producers of these canisters could therefore elect to stand up their own alternative collection program through the Stewardship Program for Packaging and avoid paying some of the fees that they would owe to the program.

Instead of a stand-alone study, the Department would support an amendment of LD 1035 to require the Department to evaluate the disposal of single use propane cylinders as part of the stewardship program annual report under 38 M.R.S. § 1772(1), due to the legislature by February 15, 2026. As part of the evaluation, the Department will provide

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information about how the Stewardship Program for Packaging and a stand-alone product stewardship program can work for this waste stream in Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am available to answer questions of the Committee, either now or at work session.