



Public Hearing – February 16, 2022
House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife
Representative Amy Sheldon

Testimony Submitted by Annie Lane, Director of Product Sustainability – Consumer Products,
Worthington Industries

H 115 - An act relating to household products containing hazardous substances

My name is Annie Lane, Director of Product Sustainability for Worthington Industries' Consumer Products business. I am writing regarding H 115 - An act relating to household products containing hazardous substances. Our company supports the overarching objective of the Bill to ensure the proper collection and management of propane canisters at end-of-life. We are working closely with legislators in Connecticut on similar legislation that will be introduced in the next few weeks.

We have a number of concerns about the H 115's drafting that we believe do not reflect best practices learned in jurisdictions like Ontario, Canada which has had policy in place since 2008 and has recently been updated. We believe consideration of this legislation, along with the plan under development in Connecticut, will better inform Vermont's draft Bill. This includes areas like:

- Definitions that do not include types of transactions other than retail sales and do not fully account for online sales originating out-of-state, creating an unlevel playing field that will leave Vermont companies financially disadvantaged. We have put forward new definitions (e.g., "supplied" and the producer hierarchy) in Connecticut that better incorporate all materials supplied into the State and improve the ability to oversee and enforce the Bill.
- The Bill requires producers to form a "stewardship organization". Given the various categories of hazardous products and types of products within a category (e.g., refillable and non-refillable propane canisters), a producer may prefer to act individually to develop a more tailored approach to achieve the stated goals over a larger stewardship organization.

We ask the committee for additional time to get this legislation right. In Connecticut, we collaborated with legislators, local stakeholders and municipalities to develop a program that works better for all parties involved. Worthington would be pleased to meet with Vermont state officials to share more information about the approach taken in Connecticut and to discuss how H 115 might be amended.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback from industry on the proposed bill. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at annie.lane@worthingtonindustries.com.