



NYPSC
NEW YORK PRODUCT
STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL



**PRODUCT
STEWARDSHIP
INSTITUTE**

Sustainable Solutions to Protect Our Environment

March 27, 2017

The Honorable Steve Englebright
Chair, New York Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee
Legislative Office Building 621
Albany, NY 12248

RE: Support for A.1038 (same as S881): Relates to establishing the paint stewardship program

Dear Chairman Englebright and members of the Environmental Conservation Committee:

The New York Product Stewardship Council (NYPSC), the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), and the 38 other local governments, municipal and industry associations, and environmental groups that are signees of this letter strongly support A.1038 (Stirpe) to establish a paint stewardship program in New York State.

Nearly 4 million gallons of leftover paint are generated annually in New York State. Local governments would need to spend \$31 million to properly manage this waste stream. Enacting Assembly Bill 1038 relieves financial burdens on municipalities, establishes new convenient locations for residents to drop off their paint, increases paint reuse and recycling, and creates recycling-sector jobs. Upon passage of the paint stewardship law, several NY State businesses are ready to expand or launch operations to process this material.

Today's reality, without a paint stewardship program, is that municipalities spend about 50% of their Household Hazardous Waste budgets to manage a small fraction of leftover paint. Despite the efforts of local government, which spend an estimated \$3.1 million each year to manage paint, millions of gallons of leftover paint are disposed of in the garbage or poured down the drain annually.

A.1038 is actively supported by local government agencies, the American Coatings Association, and environmental groups. When passed, PaintCare, an industry non-profit, would manage the paint through funds collected by the program, thus freeing municipalities and the state agency of much of the management and financial burden.

A.1038 is consistent with paint stewardship laws passed in eight states and Washington D.C. – including Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, and Vermont – which produced the following early results:

- Saved taxpayers over \$69 million, created over 200 jobs, and led to recycling over 17 million gallons of high quality paint (a majority of which is recycled back into paint).
- Created more than 1,700 voluntary retail collection sites, providing far greater convenience to residents and decreasing the burden on local government programs.

New York Product Stewardship Council

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The Paint Stewardship Program (A.1038) represents a tremendous opportunity to work with the industry to benefit New York municipalities financially, socially, and environmentally. **We urge your support.**

Respectfully,

New York Product Stewardship Council

Product Stewardship Institute

New York State Association of Counties

New York City Department of Sanitation

City of Kingston

Niagara County

Broome County

Madison County

Tompkins County

Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

Oneida - Herkimer Solid Waste Authority

Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Authority

Lewis County Solid Waste Department

Steuben County Department of Public Works

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Town of Canandaigua

Town of Gardiner

Town of North Elba

Town of Southhold

Village of Tivoli

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility

Town of Red Hook Conservation Advisory Council

New York League of Conservation Voters

New York Water Environment Association

New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling

New York State Association for Solid Waste Management

The Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations

Solid Waste Association of North America, New York Chapter

Citizens Campaign for the Environment

League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region

Lower East Side Ecology Center

Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council

Capital District Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Environmental Advocates of New York

Clean Harbors Environmental Services

Sims Municipal Recycling

Solara, Inc

Loop Recycling

Toshiba Business Solutions