



NYPSC
NEW YORK PRODUCT
STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL



**PRODUCT
STEWARDSHIP
INSTITUTE**

Sustainable Solutions to Protect Our Environment

April 13, 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 39 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 Southold
Village of Tivoli
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
Wells College, Center for Sustainability and the Environment
Syracuse Habitat for Humanity
Clean Harbors Environmental Services
Sims Municipal Recycling
Solara, Inc
Loop Recycling
Toshiba Business Solutions