**[Month] [Date], 2018**

The Honorable Steve Englebright

Chair, New York Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee

Legislative Office Building 621

Albany, NY 12248

**RE: Support for A.11245 (same as S.9106): Relates to establishing the paint stewardship program**

**Dear Chairman Englebright and members of the Environmental Conservation Committee:**

**I am writing you in strong support of A.11245. This legislation would 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 11245 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.11245 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.11245 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 1,703 voluntary retail collection sites, providing far greater convenience to residents and decreasing the burden on local government programs.

The Paint Stewardship Program (A.11245) represents a tremendous opportunity to work with the industry to benefit New York municipalities financially, socially, and environmentally. **We urge your support.**

Respectfully,

*[Name]*

*[Position]*