**May XX, 2015**

**Senator Thomas F. O’Mara, Chairman**

**Environment Conservation Committee**

**LOB 848**

**Albany, NY 12248**

**RE: Support For S4926: Relates to establishing the paint stewardship program**

**Dear Chairman O’Mara:**

Each year, about 10 percent of paint purchased by New Yorkers becomes leftover, resulting in an estimated 3.9 million gallons of leftover paint per year in New York. If all this paint were to be managed properly through household hazardous waste (HHW) collections, it would cost about $31 million per year. Unfortunately, most leftover paint is currently disposed in the garbage despite the efforts of local governments. As stated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in its 2010 Beyond Waste Report, “Paint is a large component of the materials captured at most HHW collection events and facilities…Managing paint through the HHW stream is expensive and not effective in capturing substantial volumes for recycling.” [Municipality/Town/Organization Name] spends XXX annually to collect and manage XXX gallons of paint each year.

**[Municipality/Town/Organization Name]** **supports S4926. This legislation would establish a statewide and convenient paint collection program for all New York residents and businesses that is operated and financed by the paint industry.** New York has already enacted legislation similar to S4926, establishing product stewardship programs for scrap electronics, rechargeable batteries, and thermostats.

Fortunately, S4926is actively supported by the American Coatings Association (ACA), which represents 95 percent of U.S. paint manufacturers. ACA’s support has been a key reason for the passage of effective paint stewardship laws across the country that have benefitted states financially, economically, and environmentally.

In Oregon, which has the country’s first paint stewardship law, the collection infrastructure increased from 15 HHW locations prior to inception of the industry-run program to nearly 150 collection sites today (including 132 retail locations). Oregon’s Metro regional government also reported that the industry’s program saved it more than $1 million in the first year alone, a nearly 20 percent reduction of its $5.4 million HHW program budget. In the past five years, paint stewardship legislation has been enacted in eight states, including Oregon, California, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, Minnesota, and Colorado, and in the District of Columbia. New York counties can also realize significant savings while greatly expanding opportunities for the safe management of leftover paint for New York’s residents.

Support for S4926would extend New York’s current product stewardship leadership to a fourth consumer product, architectural paint. ***We urge your support for this important legislation.***

Sincerely,

*[Name]*

*[Position]*