



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

David J. Valesky

Senate Passes Environmental Bill Package Celebrating Earth Day

David J. Valesky

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State Senator David J. Valesky (D-Oneida) today applauded the passage of several bills in the State Senate that mark the celebration of Earth Day, and provide protections to reduce pollution and improve public health.

“As a state, we continue to make good progress enacting policies that protect our environment, reduce the amount of pollution and protect against exposure to harmful chemicals,” Senator Valesky said. “I supported this legislation because it is incumbent upon us to act responsibly to ensure our children and grandchildren will have clean air, clean water and a healthy environment.”

Senator Valesky co-sponsored (S6047a) legislation that would establish an e-waste recycling program. E-waste currently represents the fastest growing category of waste in the municipal solid waste stream. Consumer demand for the latest cutting-edge electronics products, coupled with the devices relatively short life-spans, has created an overwhelming growth in the amount of e-waste the state produces. This legislation which will create a State-wide electronic equipment reuse and recycling program.

“OCRRA believes that this well-built and workable e-waste take-back legislation is critically important,” Tom Rhodes, Executive Director of the

Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA), said. "E-waste legislation represents an important step for New York State by advancing true product stewardship and shifting primary responsibility for e-waste management at the end of a product's useful life from local taxpayers or solid waste system ratepayers to manufacturers.

"This shift in responsibility ultimately results in product design changes that reduce toxicity and enhance future reuse and recycling. Also important in today's economic climate, real jobs are created by harvesting electronics from the trash."

The Senate also passed legislation (S4983) that would limit the use of pesticides on school and daycare center grounds except in emergency health and safety situations.

Other legislation passed:

Mapping Cancer Rates (3788C)

This legislation will require the department of health, in consultation with the DEC and the technical advisory group, to create a cancer mapping program in the State that tracks links between exposures to manmade toxics in our environment and certain cancers.

Eliminating BPA from Child Care Products (S3296)

Bisphenol A (BPA), commonly used in child care products such as pacifiers, bottles and sippy cups, can have potentially harmful effects on children. This legislation eliminates its use from child care products.

Rechargeable Battery Recycling Program (S3593B)

Creates a rechargeable battery takeback program at no cost to consumers.

Prohibiting the State from Purchasing Non-Recycled Paper (S5119)

New York State, with more than 80 State entities, is a major purchaser and user of stationary and paper products, and this legislation will prohibit the purchase of non-recyclable paper and mailing products.

Fuel Efficiency Guide (6141B)

This requires auto dealerships to display a requiring automobile dealers

display a “Gallons-Per-Mile (GPM) Fuel Savings Guide” to provide consumers with accurate information about fuel efficiency for vehicles.