



30 Broad Street – 30th Floor
New York, NY 10004
212-361-6350
politics@nylcv.org
www.nylcv.org

2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Albert A. Stirpe, Jr.

Office Sought (district if applicable): Assembly, District 127

Website: www.alstirpe.org

Facebook Page: Al Stirpe NY State Assembly

Twitter handle: @StirpeAl

1. Please share your accomplishments or experiences that indicate your commitment to advancing a pro-environment agenda. These experiences may be professional or personal.

Received the first ever SUNY Empire State College Excellence in Environmental Sustainability Award in 2011 for my advocacy and support of CNY Bounty, a local Farm to Consumer Program with over 100 farms and 2,000 customers in Chenango, Madison & Onondaga Counties.

Due to the importance of bees in the pollination of much of our food and the collapse of bee colonies over the past 20 years, in 2007 I authored and passed into law A10687 to qualify apiaries for agricultural assessments to provide benefits and protections for the raising, keeping and sale of bees and their by-products to provide incentives to grow existing and develop new bee colonies.

Over the past 3 years I've held a number of electronics recycling events to collect unwanted electronics, recycle parts that can be reused and properly dispose of materials that can't. Our event in 2016 collected 225,000 pounds (11 tractor trailers full) of electronics – a state record.

I am a member of the NY State Caucus of Environmental Legislators. I have currently sponsored a bill A6199C that would create a state-wide paint recycling program. NY State produces 3.9 million gallons of unused paint each year. It costs NY municipalities \$41 million each year to run a largely ineffective program to collect and dispose of a very small % of this unused paint. Once or twice a year citizens can bring unused paint to town or city highway garages where it is collected. Very few citizens take advantage of this program. My statewide program would set up drop off sites at all retail outlets such as Home Depot, Lowes, Ace, lumberyards and other paint retailers. Whenever citizens are going to those locations, they can bring any unused paint they have. It's simple and convenient, 364 days a year. Unlike most municipal programs (which dry out latex paint and dispose of it in landfills), the drop off sites sort paint by color. It is transported to a recycling facility where 85-90% is turned back into new paint and reused.

I have also created a bill, A8383, which provides a tax credit for homeowners and businesses that construct permeable surfaces such as a driveway or parking lot to help mitigate flooding.

Also I'm co-sponsor to the following bills:

Bill No.	
A101	Dinowitz (MS) -- Requires the commissioner of environmental conservation to establish standards for inspection and certification of green roofs and provides for a green roof installation credit -- to provide a tax credit for home owners to install such gardens.
A3585A	Titone (MS) -- Relates to regulation of toxic chemicals in pet products
A3636A	DenDekker (MS) -- Prohibits grocery stores from providing plastic carryout bags and requires grocery stores to provide recyclable paper bags at no charge to customers
A4624A	Colton (MS) -- Provides for source separation and disposal of recyclable materials and requires municipalities to adopt local laws providing therefor
A4924	Schimmel (MS) -- Prohibits the sale of personal care products or cosmetics containing microbeads
A5612A	Englebright (MS) -- Relates to regulation of toxic chemicals in children's products
A5844A	Kavanagh (MS) -- Relates to the reduction of mercury in mercury-added lamps
A5896	Schimmel (MS) -- Enacts the "microbead-free waters act" to prohibit the sale of personal cosmetic products containing microbeads

A6070B	Englebright (MS) -- Relates to bioheating fuel -- This bill will require all heating oil sold in New York State to contain at least two percent biodiesel no later than July 1, 2018, and will structure the tax incentives to comply with current New York State law.
A6072	Englebright -- Relates to global warming pollution control
A6199C	Stirpe -- Relates to establishing the paint stewardship program
A6836A	Englebright (MS) -- Relates to standards of performance for wastewater facilities -- The purpose of this bill is to ensure that wastewater treatment facilities safely handle water from hydraulic fracturing operations.
A6859	Englebright -- Relates to the uniform treatment of waste from the exploration, development, extraction, or production of crude oil or natural gas
A9451	Skoufis -- Relates to fees for certification of certain pesticide applicators; repealer

Please indicate your level of commitment to, and if applicable your recent personal and professional activity with respect to, the following issues:

(To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review [NYLCV's 2016 State Policy Agenda](#))

2. Ensuring adequate funding for the environmental agencies and programs

Helped approve a \$300 million budget for the Environmental Protection Fund (and increase of \$123 million or 70%) in this year's budget, with huge increases for water quality infrastructure, climate change mitigation and adaption, solid waste programs, parks and open spaces. Total funding for all environmental agencies and programs for 2016-17 is \$1.4 billion.

3. Addressing the causes and effects of climate change (e.g., clean energy and emission controls)

Publicly opposed hydrofracking, voted twice for moratoriums (citing the release of large amounts of methane at the well head of frack wells) before the final ban by the Governor. Conducted press conference on REV (Reforming the Energy Vision) promoting a 40% reduction in Green House Gases, 50% electricity generation from renewable energy sources and 23% decrease in energy consumption in buildings all by 2030.

Co-sponsored, voted for and passed (in the Assembly) A6072 which would authorize DEC to promulgate rules and regulations establishing a limit on greenhouse gas emissions, known to contribute to climate change, to:

*be no higher than aggregate levels of emissions for 1990

*incrementally reduce the limit to be less than 80% of the initial limit by 2050

4. Protecting the health of New Yorkers and their communities (e.g., toxics, air quality, food quality and security)

My work with CNY Bounty was driven by the desire to provide clean, healthy, local foods to the citizens of CNY.

I am co-sponsor of several bills that are aimed at reducing the number and amount of toxins in our environment. A5612A relates to regulation of toxic chemicals in children's products. A5844A relates to the reduction of mercury in mercury-added lamps. A5896 enacts the "microbead-free waters act" to prohibit sale of cosmetic products containing microbeads. A2592 requires the Commissioner of Health to give written notice requiring the discontinuation of a paint condition conducive to lead poisoning when an area of high risk is designated, requires the COH to conduct a hearing when a designated dwelling fails to comply with the demand and order abatement of a paint condition conducive to lead poisoning if there is proof of violation and allow the COH to assess a penalty up to \$2,500 for such violation.

5. Conserving and protecting natural resources (e.g., water, open spaces, habitat, organic recycling)

My paint recycling bill A6199C, would reduce paint cans from going into landfills, protect water from paint solvents being poured down drains and dumped into fields and turn unused paint from a waste product into a valuable resource.

The 2016-17 State Budget provided \$300 million for the EPF that included: \$14 million for municipal recycling (organic recycling equipment is eligible), \$40 million for open space, \$20 million for farmland protection, \$16 million for waterfront revitalization, \$20 million for municipal parks, \$20 million for water quality improvement Projects, \$27 million for non-point source pollution control, \$1.5 million for water testing and \$1 million for drug collection.

6. Investing in better, smarter infrastructure (e.g., transportation, electrical grid, green infrastructure, smart growth, rail transport of crude oil)

I have advocated for the implementation of micro-grids, worked on the development of solar farms for the Liverpool School District and the Towns of Clay and Pompey. Worked as Executive Director of Synapse during the period that we installed 56 electrical vehicle charging stations in Syracuse and Rome. Advocated for new regulations for tank car transportation of oil – enhanced thicker steel tankers, more safety features (EOT, ECP braking, Distributed Power Systems, etc.), much bigger fund to cover accidents.

Voted for the solar and wind tax credit programs.