

BUY REMANUFACTURED

Editor's note: At the Int'l ITC Conference in Miami Beach in April, New York State Assemblyman Joe Morelle announced the filing of two new Bills to assist remanufacturers. The International Imaging Technology Council, through and with its lobbyist Rick Ostroff, will be fighting for passage of this new legislation.

Over the last several years, we have been working in New York to educate the Governor and the Legislature on the importance and value of remanufacturing. We have been fighting for your rights to remanufacture products in response to certain OEM's aggressive action to take those rights away. We have been telling the story of New York's remanufacturing industry-that you employ thousands of people while diverting thousands of tons of waste from entering landfills-making it clear that remanufacturing is an asset to the state in terms of employment, the environment and allowing consumers an economical choice on an array of products.

Working closely with Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, we have had many successes in improving the visibility and climate for remanufacturers in New York. In 1999, a \$1 million tax incentive program was developed to encourage growth in the remanufacturing industry. In 2000, New York passed a law that prioritizes the purchase of remanufactured commodities by state agencies and offices. The next year, we introduced legislation that would require a winning contractor to warrant that his or her printer would not contain any computer code or mechanism capable of disabling or impairing the printer. Last year, we introduced A1533-A, a bill that would authorize the commissioner of the Office of General Services to commence a used printer cartridge collection program and encourage the purchasing and use of remanufactured toner cartridges by state agencies. This bill is active in the current session, and we are working on getting Senate sponsorship and moving the legislation in both houses.

In addition to these important pieces of legislation, we worked with Assemblyman Morelle in securing over \$4.2 million for remanufacturing, manufacturing outreach and the imaging products testing lab for Rochester Institute of Technology's National Center for Remanufacturing and Resource Recovery and the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies. The Centers have been invaluable assets in our efforts to expand the reach of the remanufacturing industry in New York State and across the country.

While we have had successes in New York State, we have not been as successful as we would like at increasing the demand for remanufactured products. Currently, we are working with Assemblyman Morelle and Peter Smith, President of the New York State Energy and Research Association (NYSERDA) to develop a **“Buy New York Remanufactured”** program. This program will focus on promoting the remanufacturing industry in New York State and on ways to increase demand for remanufactured products.

In April, Assemblyman Morelle introduced two bills that will address this issue. A10901 creates a temporary state commission to develop programs and policies that enhance and foster the introduction, expansion and growth of the remanufacturing industry in New York, and remanufacturing efforts among state agencies. Included in this bill are provisions to: increase the numbers and improve the training of remanufacturers; improve procedures for the testing of remanufactured products, and; create a tax credit or other similar incentive. The second bill, A10896, would exempt remanufactured products from sales and compensating use taxes. We are currently working to move these bills in the Assembly, and have them introduced in the Senate.

In addition, NYSERDA is considering ways to increase the profile and use of remanufactured products in the following ways:

1. Requesting a grant to fund programs for remanufacturers.
2. Setting up a pilot printer cartridge collection program.
3. Organizing joint press conferences with NYSERDA, Assemblyman Morelle, RIT and representatives of our Association to promote the work that is being done at the Rochester Institute of Technology.
4. Reaching out to some of New York's community colleges to offer educational programs and training for remanufacturing.

Our efforts to encourage the growth of the remanufacturing industry in New York are ongoing, and we are confident that as we refocus our energies on the demand side of the discussions we will be successful in terms of legislation, program funding and agency outreach.