

# Insulation Advocate

## NIA's Insulation Advocate: Update on June and July's Activities Congress Makes Progress on Energy Bills before Summer Recess

Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate recessed for 7 weeks on July 15, for the Presidential Conventions and for their annual summer District Work Period. While the July work period was cut short due to the recess, we still have some major news to share with you!

On July 12, the Senate voted 84–3 to officially go to a Conference Committee to finalize the compromise comprehensive energy bill that would meld together S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act, and H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act. The latter act includes our language requiring the Department of Energy to conduct a study on the impact mechanical insulation has on energy and water savings in federal buildings. The Senate's conferees include Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), Senator James Risch (R-ID), Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT). They will join together with the 40 House conferees (24 Republicans and 16 Democrats) to finalize a deal. While there are still numerous hurdles to overcome, we are hopeful that the Committee will conclude its work in September when Congress returns. The fact that the Committee members have been chosen is an excellent step forward, and we hope to work with the Conference Committee members to ensure our language is included in the final legislation.

While we were hopeful that there would be some final action on the Military Construction-VA Appropriations bill before Congress recessed, unfortunately, due to controversial funding offsets to the Zika virus funding that were attached to this bill, the Senate decided not to act on this bill. As discussed in prior issues of *Insulation Advocate*, this bill includes our language calling on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct mechanical insulation assessments at numerous VA facilities and report back to Congress. While we fully expect our language to be included in any final bill, it appears that action on that bill may be slipping until after the November elections and will likely be included in a year-end omnibus appropriations package.

In addition to working on Capitol Hill, one of the programs the National Insulation Association's (NIA's) Foundation supports is the Insulation Energy Appraisal Program (IEAP), which teaches participants how to determine the optimal insulation thickness and corresponding energy and dollar savings for a project. NIA offers member companies the opportunity to have the training in their own offices with customized presentations and materials. Performance Contracting, Inc. recently took advantage of this opportunity and hosted a class at their Lenexa, Kansas, office. This course teaches students to prove the dollar and energy savings of insulation, which can be tremendously helpful when bidding for a contract with a new client. Enabling more individuals to concretely prove the value of insulation helps increase awareness of insulation's benefits, and will help increase its use.

Like Congress, the *Insulation Advocate* will be taking a break for the month of August. We will be back in the fall to report on the progress we are making to get insulation-related legislation successfully passed by Congress and signed into law.

Best Regards,  
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NIA EVP/CEO

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NIA is a not-for-profit trade association representing both merit (open shop) and union contractors, distributors, laminators, fabricators, and manufacturers that provide thermal insulation, insulation accessories, and components to the commercial, mechanical, and industrial markets throughout the nation. Since 1953, the northern Virginia-based association has been the voice of the insulation industry and is dedicated to keeping the commercial and industrial insulation industry up to date on the latest industry trends and technologies. For more information, visit [www.Insulation.org](http://www.Insulation.org).

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