

Insulation Advocate

NIA's Insulation Advocate: Update on December's Activities Ending 2015 with a Strong Push for Insulation

On December 3, 2015, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015. This bill included NIA's language, which mandates that the Department of Energy (DOE) conduct a study on the impact that thermal insulation can have when examining water and energy costs in federal buildings. A study of this nature could be used as further proof of insulation's benefits, and might lead to more insulation being specified in federal buildings as the tremendous energy savings of insulation become apparent. The results of the study could also be used to make the case for increased insulation in other commercial and industrial facilities.

In last month's *Insulation Advocate*, we shared that Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AL) and Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) sent a letter to the DOE urging them to conduct the aforementioned study as soon as possible. This letter, in combination with the House's passage of H.R. 8, gives the DOE an added incentive to conduct the study, and we are hopeful the DOE will make the decision to do so in 2016.

In other positive news, the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act of 2015 was re-introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Bob Dold (R-IL) and cosponsored by Representative Linda Sanchez (D-CA) on December 3. Representative Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) also later joined to cosponsor this bill on December 17. We are encouraged to see that there is support for creating a tax incentive for the use of mechanical insulation, and will work in 2016 to see if we can make progress on this front.

One of NIA's most successful training programs is the Insulation Energy Appraisal Program (IEAP), which teaches students how to determine the optimal insulation thickness and corresponding energy and dollar savings for a project. After taking the course and passing the certifying exam, students become Certified Insulation Energy Appraisers for 3 years. As a reminder, the deadline to recertify is approaching for those who became Certified Insulation Energy Appraisers or recertified in 2012. The renewal deadline has been extended to January 31, 2016. For more information on how to become a Certified Insulation Energy Appraiser or recertify, please email training@insulation.org or visit www.insulation.org/training/ieap/recertification.cfm.

With Presidential primaries and caucuses kicking off in a few short weeks, legislative action in Congress will likely center on issues that can be used as campaign talking points and issues to rally both bases. Leadership representatives on both sides of the aisle are strongly determined to return the appropriations process—in which bills are created and passed to fund various federal agencies and programs—to regular order. There will be strong pushes in both Houses of Congress to move the appropriations bills quickly. NIA is currently strategizing to see how we can best utilize this special environment to increase awareness of the benefits of insulation in 2016. All of the accomplishments of NIA's Foundation for Education, Training, and Industry Advancement in 2015 will be chronicled in NIA's 2015 *Annual Report*, which will be released in early 2016. I would like to thank our members for all their support for our Foundation in 2015, and I look forward to everything we will accomplish in the New Year!

Best Regards,
Michele M. Jones
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.

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