

JANUARY 28, 2010

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

Dear Member,

Thanks to all who participated in our massive grassroots letter-writing campaign, asking members of Congress to support tax incentives for businesses to retrofit, maintain, and install our proven, energy-efficient mechanical insulation technologies in their commercial and industrial facilities.

H.R. 4296, the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act of 2009, was introduced by Rep. Deborah Halvorson (D-IL) on December 12, 2009. Through your efforts and those of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers, we have collected more than 50,000 letters asking members of Congress to support this bill and other measures that encourage the commercial and industrial sectors to both use mechanical insulation and go beyond energy efficiency minimum requirements.

We now have 16 co-sponsors who have officially signed on in support of H.R. 4296: Rep. Melissa Bean (D-IL), Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-NY), Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA), Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL), Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV), Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Rep. Joe Sestak (D-PA), Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY), Rep. Steve Driehaus (D-OH), Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY), Rep. Steve Kagen (D-WI), Rep. Dennis Moore (D-KS), Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH), Rep. David Wu (D-OR), Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI), and Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV). This is thanks to all the meetings we've had and letters we've sent. If you don't see your congressman's name listed, please call or write them and ask them to co-sponsor this bill. Use the NIA Tax Incentive Campaign Call to Action Toolkit to access a draft letter and the congressional database at www.insulation.org/mimi/?fa=tax.

Let me also update you on our most recent Capitol Hill activities. With your letters in hand and with representatives from our partners at the International, this month we've met with 18 House and Senate offices to gain support for H.R. 4296, a unique contribution to energy savings and job creation. We met directly with Congressmen Steve Driehaus (D-OH), Peter Visclosky (D-IN), Jerry McNerney (D-CA), Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ), Gary Peters (D-MI), and Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI).

We also met with key staff in several targeted congressional offices, including Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Tom Carper (D-DE), and Ted Kaufman (D-DE), and Representatives Judy Biggert (R-IL), André Carson (D-IN), Joe Donnelly (D-IN), Deborah Halvorson (D-IL), Daniel Lipinski (D-IL), Ed Pastor (D-AZ), Allyson Schwartz (D-PA), Peter Roskam (R-IL), and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).

All these offices now have an understanding of mechanical insulation and how it not only saves energy but can create and retain jobs! As the Senate looks to move legislation focused on job creation and energy efficiency in the coming weeks and months, we will continue our drumbeat to include mechanical insulation tax incentives.

Next Steps. We will meet with staff at the Department of Energy on Feb. 2 to follow up on our previous meetings to create a national mechanical insulation education and awareness campaign with the \$500,000 jump start money Congress directed for such a program. We will also begin to explore additional funding for the program for next year.

There is much to do in 2010, and we're off to a great start! With your continued support and participation, we can pass legislation that will help create more jobs in our industry while increasing energy savings across the country. If you are already a Foundation supporter, thank you. We have made tremendous progress due to your support. If you're not a current contributor, please consider becoming one. Go to www.insulation.org/foundation/pledgecard.cfm and send your contribution.

Sincerest Regards,
Michele M. Jones
Executive Vice President/CEO