

OCTOBER 28, 2010

FINAL PUSH FOR MECHANICAL INSULATION IN THE 111TH CONGRESS

Dear Member,

As the country prepares for the mid-term elections on November 2nd, elected officials and many of their staff members have headed back to their home states and districts. Our representatives are in full campaign mode, and we at NIA, as well as many of you, are paying close attention to the races because the results will impact our advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill and the way we move forward to ensure that our legislative priorities are addressed.

Many of our supporters over the last year for H.R. 4296, the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act, are in close races. In fact, at least 16 of our 65 House cosponsors are deemed by CQ Politics to be in especially tight races. We know there will be some new faces, but the deep and bipartisan support we have built for mechanical insulation incentives over the past year will remain, regardless of the outcome.

However, before we look to next year, both the House of Representatives and the Senate are scheduled to return in November and December for a “lame duck” session. We will continue to push congressional leadership to hold votes on both H.R. 4296 and S. 3716 during the upcoming session, which is scheduled to begin on November 15th. The work period is only planned to last for about two weeks, so we must recognize the real possibility that our legislative priorities are unlikely to be signed into law before the 111th Congress adjourns.

There is still much work left to do, though. We will continue our efforts to add more cosponsors from both parties onto the House and Senate bills and educate members and staff on the importance of mechanical insulation. Adding more cosponsors not only increases awareness of our issues, but builds momentum and gains critical support—which will greatly help our chances for success during the 112th Congress.

In addition, we will pursue continued funding through the U.S. Department of Energy for the mechanical insulation national education and awareness campaign for next year. The education campaign received \$500,000 in Fiscal Year 2010 for this successful program, which has allowed for data collection in seven energy zones across the nation, an intensive insulation energy assessment of government buildings in Montana, the development of energy efficiency calculators and e-learning modules, and other important steps to improve understanding of mechanical insulation. NIA members will be updated on the accomplishments made through this education and awareness campaign, including a demonstration of the newly developed calculators, this week at the Committee Days meeting in Washington, D.C.

With this additional evidence that mechanical insulation is an incredibly effective tool for increasing energy efficiency, creating and retaining jobs, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we know members of Congress and their staffs will continue to take notice.

Thank you once again to all our members for your support. With your help, we have positioned the mechanical insulation industry for success in Washington through our outreach to influential policymakers. We’re counting on your continued dedication—letter writing, phone calls, meetings, and overall support—to make sure that our lawmakers know their constituents will benefit from increased incentives for mechanical insulation.

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