

Insulation Advocate

Insulation Advocate: Update on June and July's Activities NIA's Language Included in Proposed Energy Legislation

Congress continues to make progress toward enacting comprehensive energy packages, with both Houses of Congress taking major steps forward in July. On Wednesday, July 22, the House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Energy and Power advanced its version of the comprehensive energy package, which can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/na5csxj>. The National Insulation Association's (NIA's) language related to getting a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use when examining potable hot water use in federal buildings is included in the package as Sec. 4113—Report on energy and water savings potential from thermal insulation.

On July 28, the full Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed its version of the package out of Committee and onto the full Senate for action. The Senate bill and all Committee amendment action can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/nubtd8f>. On the Senate side, rather than just including our language in the Senate bill, both the Chairwoman, Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and the Ranking Members of the Committee have expressed their strong support for our language and their desire to write a letter to the Department of Energy (DOE) to urge it to act now and conduct the study under its current authority, instead of waiting for this bill to pass. They want the DOE to start on our study as soon as possible, and think that waiting for legislation to pass would take too long. This unique step demonstrates that some members of Congress understand the crucial value of insulation and our industry.

NIA is going to advocate for insulation and will strive to advance both the DOE action and the continued presence of our language in the House bill, and in any final version that is passed out of both houses of Congress and signed into law. We are very encouraged by these recent developments.

While there are still many potential road bumps to get past in both the House and Senate, there is huge support for Congress to pass final versions of comprehensive energy bills in September and October after returning from its August recess. Both the Chairmen and Ranking Members in the House and Senate have been working together diligently on these packages in a deeply bipartisan manner, and we hope that Congress will follow their lead and pass the bill in the near future.

Insulation Advocate will be taking a break in August as Congress recesses for the summer August District-Work Periods. Make sure to check back in the fall for the latest news from NIA's Foundation for Education, Training, and Industry Advancement!

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.