

## **NIA Leadership Advances Mechanical Insulation Agenda on Capitol Hill April 2013**

With sequestration occupying most of the headlines over the past few months, we are encouraged that attention is shifting back to a topic that continues to gain momentum—energy efficiency. While there is a large degree of consensus on the economic and environmental importance of energy legislation, there is disagreement on the best strategy for energy reform. There is hope, however, in the reintroduction of a piece of energy legislation that may be the most viable course of action for solving our nation's energy crisis.

On April 18, Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Rob Portman (R-OH) reintroduced the *Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act*, (S.761), which aims to promote greater energy efficiency to increase the number of manufacturing, construction, and retrofitting jobs. Often referred to as the "Shaheen-Portman bill," it does not explicitly mention insulation or other specific energy conservation initiatives, but it may be a good vehicle for our current legislation, S. 775, the *Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act of 2013*. We have planned several meetings in May to address this legislative option. For more information on this bill, please visit [www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/s761](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/s761).

On April 3, Stephen Borg, of the Keelen Group, and Chip Gardner, of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers, met with Representative Chris Gibson's (R-NY) Defense Fellow, Curt Owens, to discuss the benefits of mechanical insulation audits and encourage their use on military installations throughout the country. Additionally, they discussed getting the Department of Defense to consider placing report language regarding mechanical insulation in the defense authorization bill.

Mr. Borg and Mr. Gardner also met with representatives from Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Mike Johanns's (R-NE) offices and successfully facilitated the introduction of the *Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act of 2013*, a bill that establishes a tax incentive for the installation and maintenance of mechanical insulation. (This bill was previously introduced by the Senators in 2011 and 2012.) The companion bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 184, introduced January 4, 2013, is also gaining some momentum due to our efforts. The bill now has 15 co-sponsors, including Timothy Bishop (D-NY), Michael Burgess (R-TX), André Carson (D-IN), Bill Foster (D-IL), Richard L. Hanna (R-NY), Michael Honda (D-CA), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Peter King (R-NY), Daniel W. Lipinski (D-IL), Gary C. Peters (D-MI), Mark Pocan (D-WI), Mike Quigley (D-IL), Cedric Richmond (D-LA), Jon D. Runyan (R-NJ), and Linda Sánchez (D-CA).

In addition to our legislative successes, we are developing some well-placed strategic partners. Mr. Borg and Mr. Gardner met with members of Representative Mike Thompson's (D-CA) office—Representative Thompson is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee—and we are confident he will be an excellent ally moving forward.

Matt Keelen, head of the Keelen Group, and Mr. Borg also sat down with the Committee Staff from the House Small Business Committee on April 15 to discuss the mechanical insulation industry and its impact on small manufacturers. It was a productive meeting and the Committee is very interested in keeping us in the loop for potential participation in future energy-related hearings and hearings on small manufacturers in the United States.

For those of you who attended NIA's 58<sup>th</sup> Convention on April 17–20, in Bonita Springs, Florida—thank you! According to the initial responses we are receiving on our survey, our members agree that it was an extremely productive meeting. Part of the education sessions included an update from Matt Keelen on the current conditions on Capitol Hill. Fortunately, according to Mr. Keelen, tax reform and energy issues are priorities in Congress as they look towards reducing costs and increasing energy efficiency. Additionally, Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH), announced that major tax reform legislation will be given the bill number H.R.1; historically speaking, bills numbered H.R.1 through H.R.10 are set aside by the Speaker for his or her use on top priorities.

There are, of course, obstacles to passing this legislation. The 113<sup>th</sup> Congress is one of the most politically divisive, not only between the two major parties but within the parties as well. In spite of this, there is reason for optimism for our legislation. In addition to Speaker Boehner's prioritization of tax reform legislation, there is strong bipartisan support for bills dealing with tax reform. This is demonstrated by the formation of bipartisan working groups in the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee. The sponsors of H.R.184, Representatives Michael Grimm (R-NY) and Timothy Bishop (D-NY), have written specifically to these groups to express the bipartisan support for and importance of the *Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act of 2013*.

Our leaders and strategic partners hope to capitalize on these conditions to pursue our legislative goals. As we work toward advancing the industry's interests, it is important to remember that one of our most significant strengths is our members. Do not hesitate to call your representatives and express your strong support for these bills. Together we can move the industry forward down a path of growth and prosperity.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele M. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Michele M. Jones  
Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer