

Insulation Advocate

NIA's Insulation Advocate: Update on November's Activities **Senators Stand Up for Mechanical Insulation**

On November 10, 2015, Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and Senator Maria Cantwell, (D-WA), the Committee's ranking member, sent a bipartisan letter to Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz requesting a study on the impact of thermal insulation on water and energy use within federal buildings and facilities. We have been collaborating with the offices of Senators Murkowski and Cantwell for several months to draft this letter, and we are thrilled it has reached the Department of Energy (DOE). The full text of the letter is available at <http://tinyurl.com/omqmuja>.

In the letter, Senators Murkowski and Cantwell said, "Among the most cost-effective and available energy efficiency technologies is thermal insulation. We recognize the general benefits that thermal insulation can have in the industrial and commercial sectors when it is installed on ductwork, steam piping, hot and cold water piping, mechanical systems, and other equipment and facilities. However, to encourage greater use of this technology, it would be helpful to have experts within the Department of Energy analyze and report on the specific benefits thermal insulation presents. Accordingly, we request that you conduct a study on the impact that thermal insulation can have on energy and water use within federal buildings and facilities."

The U. S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources announced that this letter had officially been sent to the DOE in a press release, which is available at <http://tinyurl.com/okqmba8>. Also in this press release, they cited NIA's prior research supporting the increased use of insulation, which found that that implementing a thermal insulation maintenance program in the commercial and industrial market segments would result in carbon dioxide reductions of 105 million metric tons and roughly \$3.8 billion per year in energy savings. If the DOE complies with the letter's request and initiates a study on the impact of thermal insulation, it would give the industry even more evidence to support the increased use of insulation in more facilities.

The study requested in the letter to the DOE will be able to further confirm what NIA and its members know—that insulation has much to offer to federal buildings and facilities in terms of preventing heat loss and also decreasing water use—the latter of which is a lesser known benefit of insulation. The completion of this study would certainly give us data on commercial buildings that can be used nationwide and also lead to the implementation of programs that increase the use of insulation in federal buildings and facilities, and other commercial buildings, and we are thrilled to

see Senators Murkowski and Cantwell recognize and advocate for the benefits of insulation to the DOE.

In addition, the House of Representatives should be voting on an energy bill in December that would include similar language mandating that the DOE conduct this study on the impact that thermal insulation can have when examining water and energy costs in federal building. Make sure to check next month's *Insulation Advocate* for the most recent update on where that legislation stands.

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.

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