

Insulation Advocate

NIA Insulation Advocate: Update on September's Activities **Autumn Outlook: Continued Push for Energy-Policy Packages**

On Tuesday, September 29, 2015, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce held a full Committee mark-up of H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act, which includes the National Insulation Association's (NIA's) language mandating the Department of Energy (DOE) to conduct a study on the impact that thermal insulation can have on water and energy costs in federal buildings. This bill will move to the floor of the full House of Representatives if and when the Committee passes it.

On the Senate side, things are moving a little slower on its companion comprehensive energy package. In the interim, NIA has been working with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman, Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Ranking Member, Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), to draft a letter to the DOE asking department leaders to proceed immediately with the aforementioned federal building study.

It remains to be seen how the surprise retirement of Speaker John Boehner will impact the legislative calendar, but we fully expect the House and Senate to continue their push for broad energy-policy packages. The Speaker's upcoming retirement may mean there will be a bit of uncertainty and disorganization as the House prepares to elect a new Speaker. We are encouraged, however, that members in both houses seem focused and motivated to pass comprehensive energy legislation. NIA will continue to work with our partners on Capitol Hill to include our language in any relevant bills, and we are hopeful that a bill with our language will be passed this fall.

NIA also attended some relevant industry meetings in September. At the beginning of the month, NIA Past President and Consultant Ron King attended the Energy Service Coalition (ESC) Market Transformation Conference, which focused on energy service performing contracts (ESPCs). ESPCs allow federal agencies to procure energy savings and facility improvements with no up-front capital costs or special appropriations from Congress. An ESPC represents a partnership between an agency and an energy service company (ESCO). Currently, NIA is investigating whether there may be more a value for NIA members in collaborating with ESCOs, and this conference assisted NIA in gaining more information on the topic. NIA staff also recently attended a congressional briefing on increasing energy productivity in existing buildings. While mechanical insulation can produce tremendous energy

savings, it unfortunately is left out of many energy-efficiency conversations, or insulation is only discussed in a residential capacity. As NIA members are aware, mechanical insulation should be a primary focus in these discussions, and we will continue to work to ensure it is recognized as such.

Best Regards,
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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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