



THE NATIONAL INSULATION ASSOCIATION

Insulation Advocate



September 2013 Insulation Advocate: Soldiering Onward

NIA Joins CWCC Board of Advisors

Even with the government at a standstill, it has been full speed ahead here at the National Insulation Association (NIA), and we have been working diligently to continue to advance the interests of the insulation industry. **Just recently, the Commercial Workforce Certification Council (CWCC) invited NIA EVP/CEO Michele Jones to become a member of their Board of Advisors.** The CWCC advises the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) and seeks to support the development of a skilled and qualified workforce for the evaluation, commission, operation, and management of high-performing commercial buildings. During the past year, the High-Performance Building Council advocated for the increased use of insulation to enhance the efficiency of buildings, save energy, and conserve financial resources. By working with the CWCC, we hope to be able to continue to advocate for mechanical insulation, and bring the convincing evidence of its benefits to more audiences.

NIA Explores Options to Substantiate Benefits of Mechanical Insulation

Recently, NIA Past President and Consultant Ron King attended a committee meeting at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to discuss the energy and water savings associated with the increased use of thermal insulation for mechanical systems. During this meeting, attendees discussed these benefits, which, while known, need to be quantified and supported by further industry data. The meeting attendees recommended that it would be useful to gather a team of thermal insulation and water subject-matter experts to create an objective for a potential study to **determine the impact of thermal insulation on energy and water savings on potable hot water**, and examine the return on investment that such projects may offer. They are also seeking to explore opportunities to engage energy and water utilities in incentive programs for pipe insulation in order to facilitate extra data as well as demonstrate the energy and water savings associate with pipe insulation. Finally, they plan to evaluate past work in this area to support the benefits of mechanical insulation in this capacity. We will continue to work with our strategic partners to order to publicize the benefits of insulation, and make a compelling case for its increased use.

NIA Works to Pass Mechanical Insulation Legislation

On September 19, the House of Representatives passed the Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act, a new version of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) bill, and combined this Act with the previously passed Farm Bill. The Senate and House are now on track to go to conference on the Farm Bill, pass a final version of the legislation, and have it signed into law. **Our language calling on the Department of Agriculture to study the impact of mechanical insulation in its facilities is included in the House bill**, and we

are working with our champion, Representative Michael Grimm (R-NY) to ensure that it is included in any final conference report that is voted on.

We continue to work with members of Congress on opportunities to attach similar language to other authorization bills making their way through Congress, such as the Water Resources Reform and Development Act and the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill. Both pieces of legislation have been delayed due to the government funding issue and subsequent government shutdown. When the government gets back up and running, we expect both pieces of legislation to continue to make their way through the Congressional process.

Working Through the Shutdown

As you may likely have read or heard on the news, the Treasury Department is reporting that the federal government is currently on track to hit the statutory debt limit on October 17, 2013. There have been a variety of suggestions and plans for legislation to prevent hitting the debt limit; one of the suggestions is to include provisions in legislation that would lay the groundwork for broad-based tax reform in the Fall. Due to the current government shutdown, uncertainty over how long it will last, and how to end it, the debt legislative limit package remains up in the air. We continue to educate Members of Congress on our legislation, The Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act, and push for its inclusion in any tax reform package that is ultimately acted upon in Congress.

It is certainly a difficult time in American politics, but we look to move forward and seek progress, and can only hope our Representatives plan to do the same. We will continue to push for recognition of the tremendous benefits of mechanical insulation, and for legislation that will bring these benefits to more businesses and individuals throughout the country.

Best Regards,
Michele M. Jones
NIA EVP/CEO