

Insulation Advocate

NIA's Insulation Advocate: Update on July's Activities **American Energy and Insulation**

NIA CEO/EVP Michele Jones recently attended “Unleashing American Energy,” an event at the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, DC, which was attended by President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, and many other major players in the energy industry. This event included 2 panel presentations, one on Energy Dominance: Labor and Industry Perspectives, and another on Energy Dominance: Policy Framework for the Future.

The first panelists affirmed that the United States is on track to continue being the largest producer of natural gas, and that they are pleased with the Trump administration's vow to address infrastructure. One of the panelists also stated the need to address workforce development and training so we can put more people to work in the growing energy industries.

Perry, who spoke in the second panel, affirmed that he is working with legislators and the private sector to work on utilizing energy resources within the United States. Zinke discussed plans to partner further with private industry toward these goals. Pruitt spoke about the EPA's plan to reduce regulations and Director of National Economic Council and White House Advisor, Gary Cohn, outlined Trump's desire for American energy dominance and that our most remarkable technology advances are happening in the energy and power generation.

Pence and Trump ended the event, affirming their dedication to American energy supremacy and outlining 5 major objectives: a nuclear sector revival, looking more closely at requests for coal imports, a new petroleum pipeline to Mexico, increased natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) opportunities, and new offshore leasing programs to produce oil.

As our members know, mechanical insulation has a significant role to play in these energy discussions. It is critical in LNG applications, which are continuing to be a significant focus and area that will be expanded upon. We will continue to work with the various agencies that have an impact on our industry.

There were also some legislative developments in the House of Representatives in July. House Democratic Caucus Vice Chair Linda Sánchez (D-CA) and U.S. Congressman Tom Reed (R-NY), both members of the Ways and Means Committee, introduced new legislation that will help spur job growth and encourage energy efficiency: the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act of 2017, which would decrease energy use by increasing efficiency.

Representative Sánchez noted, “Improving industrial and commercial energy efficiency has been a priority for many years, but unfortunately mechanical insulation has been largely overlooked. It is a vital component in constructing and maintaining high-performance, energy-efficient buildings and protect our environment. This bill would encourage more manufacturing facilities, office buildings, schools, hospitals, power plants, hotels, and universities to invest in improving the energy

efficiency of their buildings and machinery. I'm proud to join with Rep. Tom Reed to introduce this important bipartisan legislation.”

Representative Reed said, “This tax credit encourages businesses to become more energy efficient. Not only does this help the environment, but it frees up money that otherwise would be spent on energy bills. Now these companies can use those dollars to hire more workers. I am happy to work across the aisle with Rep. Sánchez on this bill to make sure we incentivize job creation and get more people back to work.”

NIA will continue to support this legislation and monitor all opportunities to secure its success. We are actively working on these objectives and are making major inroads with key personnel on Capitol Hill—stay tuned for more news!

Best Regards,
Michele M. Jones
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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