

# Insulation Advocate

## NIA's Insulation Advocate: Update on May's Activities: Appropriations Bills Move Closer to Passage

Along with warmer temperatures, May also brought some progress for NIA's legislative efforts. On May 19, 2016, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R.4974, the Fiscal Year 2017 Military Construction-VA Appropriations bill that included the following language in the corresponding Committee Report:

*Mechanical insulation assessments.*—The Committee acknowledges the cost savings possible through energy savings associated with proper insulation, and encourages VA to work in collaboration with industry partners to conduct a mechanical insulation energy and water assessment at several representative VA hospitals. The assessment should study the potential for improved energy and water efficiency of the selected medical center mechanical systems by applying mechanical insulation in repair, replacement, or upgrade applications. Assessment results shall be shared through a report to the Committee not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act.

We fully expect that this bill will be integrated with the Senate version of the bill toward the end of 2016 and will fight to ensure that our language remains in the final version.

On May 26, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) named 13 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to serve as the formal Conference Committee to finalize the compromise comprehensive energy bill with the Senate after the House of Representatives voted to send their version of the bill to the Conference Committee. While we are still waiting for House Democrats and the Senate to name their members of the Conference Committee, this is a big step forward in finally melding together S.2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act, and H.R.8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act. The latter bill includes our language that would require the Department of Energy (DOE) to conduct a study on the impact mechanical insulation has on energy and water savings in federal buildings.

While there are significant differences between the 2 versions of the bill, we expect the House and Senate to work hard to try to find a compromise that can be the first major energy bill signed into law in nearly 10 years. While the DOE has already begun our study, we will continue our push to include this language in the final bill to ensure that DOE conducts the study to its fullest extent and to continue to educate members of Congress on the immense impact mechanical insulation can and does have on our nation's energy and water use.

As part of its mission, NIA's Foundation also monitors events and actions of allied organization to see if there may be a potential to promote insulation. Toward this end, Kristin V. DiDomenico, Vice President of the National Insulation Association (NIA), participated in the White House Conference on Resilient Building Codes, which was held in Washington, DC, on May 10. Other attendees included the American Institute of Architects (AIA), National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), and 38 other leaders of America's design and construction industry. In conjunction with the conference, the Resilience Building Coalition provided a report on the progress made on the resilience agenda since the Coalition announced the Building Industry Statement on Resilience 2 years ago; it is available at <http://tinyurl.com/h53qalb>.

NIA is encouraged by the progress made in the past month on our legislative goals. We plan to continue work with our allies on Capitol Hill to ensure our language is included in the final versions of the veteran and energy appropriations bills. If the bills are passed with our language, it will help us gain even more data verifying the benefits of insulation and could lead to its increased use in more federal facilities.

Best Regards,

Michele M. Jones

NIA EVP/CEO

National Insulation Association | 703-464-6422  
12100 Sunset Hills Road | Suite 330 | Reston, VA 20190  
[www.Insulation.org](http://www.Insulation.org) | [www.InsulationOutlook.com](http://www.InsulationOutlook.com) | [www.InsulateMetalBuildings.org](http://www.InsulateMetalBuildings.org)  
###

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](http://www.Insulation.org).

Copyright © 2016 National Insulation Association. All Rights Reserved. Any unauthorized duplication is strictly prohibited and violates NIA's copyright. For more information on how to obtain permission to reprint the *NIA Insulation Advocate*, please contact [publisher@insultion.org](mailto:publisher@insultion.org)