

# Insulation Advocate

## **Insulation Advocate: Update on December's Activities NIA Successfully Includes Insulation Language in Appropriations Bill**

Congress ended its business for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress in 2014 by passing a year-end appropriations bill that the President signed into law on December 16, 2014. The passage of this bill, entitled the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015, averted another potential government shutdown and contained language covering every federal agency, encompassing funding that is usually acted upon in 12 separate bills.

The National Insulation Association (NIA) was able to include very important language in the Energy and Water Section of the Committee Report that accompanied the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015, also known as H.R. 83 (the original H.R. 83 was not an appropriations bill, but was amended to become the fiscal year 2015 appropriations bill).

The language we succeeded in adding to the bill is as follows: "Within available funds for energy efficiency, the Committee directs the Department to work with its partner agencies and relevant industry partners to submit, not later than September 30, 2015, a report on the potential benefits, cost savings, and reduced energy use of a mechanical insulation maintenance and upgrade program in federal facilities, as well as an evaluation of approaches for increasing the use of mechanical insulation in federal energy efficiency programs."

We are truly excited with the results of our many months of hard work and education efforts in Washington, D.C., and look forward to sharing the results of this report. By obtaining this hard data, and also the data we are expecting from the Department of Agriculture due to our language in the Farm Bill, we will be able to evaluate opportunities, potential programs, and initiatives to not only boost the use and awareness of mechanical insulation within the federal government, but also throughout our nation's industrial and commercial sectors as well. We look forward to continuing our momentum with the new 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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