

Insulation Advocate

NIA's Insulation Advocate: Update on April and May's Activities Working with Partners on Capitol Hill

While the new administration is working to establish itself and fill cabinet and agency vacancies, the National Insulation Association (NIA) has been actively working with industry partners to affect positive change on Capitol Hill. Over the last few months, communications between NIA and players on Capitol Hill have included:

- A letter to the new administration expressing our willingness to work with them to demonstrate the value of insulation in creating jobs, ensuring energy efficiency, and lowering emissions.
- Signing onto a letter with other insulation organizations in response to news of cuts to vital energy-efficiency programs within the Department of Energy (DOE), including the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). This letter urged the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development to continue funding support for several DOE programs.
- A letter to the newly appointed Energy Secretary, Rick Perry, strongly encouraging him and the DOE leadership to continue the bipartisan tradition of driving energy-efficiency gains across our economy through essential energy-efficiency programs within the DOE.
- Signing onto a letter sent to Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR), and Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) of the Energy and Commerce Committee supporting S.385/H.R. 1443—The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2017. This legislation will increase U.S. energy productivity, promote economic growth and competitiveness, enhance energy security, and reduce harmful emissions—in part by working to improve energy efficiency in federal and other buildings.
- A letter to the National Institute of Building Science offering our support if they are awarded funding from the National Institute of Standards and Technology on their proposal to strengthen disaster resilience in buildings and infrastructure.
- Signing onto a letter with more than 100 organizations supporting the permanent repeal of the federal estate tax. This letter was sent to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Meetings

On April 4, The Keelen Group (NIA's advocate on Capitol Hill) and NIA's Executive Vice President/CEO Michele M. Jones, met with Don Benton, White House Special Assistant to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and 2 EPA special advisors. We used this meeting to emphasize the facts about insulation: it's made in America, creates jobs, saves money, saves energy, and reduces emissions. They were impressed by all of insulation's benefits and we are looking at ways to work together to further this awareness.

On May 8, Michele Jones, NIA Past President Ron King, and The Keelen Group met with Brian McCormack, the DOE's Chief of Staff. During this meeting, they discussed the DOE's future and how NIA can work alongside the DOE to develop more awareness and urgency with regard to mechanical insulation use as a key energy-efficiency technology. They also discussed finding synergies with energy service companies and how mechanical insulation can be included in efficiency discussions. Additionally, there was a follow-up discussion on some of NIA's prior legislative activities, including mechanical insulation assessments at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, and a request from Senator Murkowski for a mechanical insulation study.

NIA also recently held the second Insulation Industry Association Council Meeting. The Insulation Industry Association Council (IIAC) is an informal forum for association executives from all insulation industry membership organizations that support the commercial, industrial, mechanical, and residential insulation industries. The Council exchanges information, shares best practices, and collaborates on policies impacting our industry. Through periodic face-to-face meetings and communication, the Council seeks to enhance their collective desire to raise public awareness of the benefits of insulation and promote those policies and practices that grow the market and strengthen the industry.

Finally, as you are hopefully aware, NIA's Fall Summit will be held September 12–13, 2017, at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. We sent an invitation to Energy Secretary Rick Perry inviting him to be our Keynote Speaker at this important event—check NIA's website, www.insulation.org, often for the latest news about the Fall Summit!

That's all the latest from NIA's most recent Foundation activities—we'll be posting more news as these projects develop. Stay tuned!

Best Regards,
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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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