

FEBRUARY 2012

WHO ♥S MECHANICAL INSULATION?

Dear Member,

First, our most exciting news: the e-Learning Modules are live! Visit www.nerlearning.org and click on “Mechanical Insulation Education and Awareness E-Learning Series” to see the five modules and their associated resources. This is the final piece of the Mechanical Insulation Education and Awareness Campaign and will be an invaluable tool for those wanting to learn about mechanical insulation’s value and benefits, system design, and proper and timely maintenance.

Back on Capitol Hill, NIA and the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers spent Valentine’s Day working hard to get some love for our Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act (H.R. 2866/S. 1526) and the Mechanical Insulation Education and Awareness Campaign (MIC). Our planning and work produced several rewards, including the exciting news that Rep. Aaron Schock (R-IL), a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, signed on to cosponsor H.R. 2866. Reps. Randy Hultgren (R-IL) and Michael Capuano (D-MA) also signed on this month, bringing us to a total of 45 sponsors.

We also met with Rep. Peter Visclosky (D-IN) and Joe DeVooght from his staff, who requested information about the MIC so Rep. Visclosky could include questions and encouragement for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to continue funding it during Energy Secretary Steven Chu’s appearance before the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee on February 28 to present and justify the FY 2013 DOE budget. Rep. Visclosky is firmly behind our efforts to secure more federal money for the MIC.

We also met with John Veysey, Legislative Director, and Jim Curry, Research Director, in Rep. Dan Lipinsky’s (D-IL) office to learn more about a possible Hill briefing featuring the DOE (hosted by the House STEM and Manufacturing Caucuses) that would include discussions on DOE’s partnership with the Alliance on mechanical insulation.

Our meeting with Blake Anderson, Energy Legislative Assistant with Rep. Kathy Hochul (D-NY), focused on outreach the New York union local had recently with the field representative to Rep. Hochul. Blake was attentive in our presentation and said he would review H.R. 2866 for possible cosponsorship. We also met with Elizabeth Stone, Energy Legislative Assistant to Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN), and Terri Glaze, Chief of Staff to Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), about signing on as sponsors of H.R. 2866.

On the Senate side, we had a good session Brooke Jamison, Legislative Director to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). She said a draft letter urging colleagues to support the bill is pending with Senator Johanns’ office, and she believes there will be a shot between now and May for an energy efficiency package that includes tax provisions. Brooke is also going to reach out to staff to Senators Rockefeller and Stabenow on the Finance Committee for more guidance on tax opportunities for S. 1526.

Mark Libell, tax counsel to Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), told us the best tax vehicles for us are the payroll tax package now being assembled, or the Transportation and Energy package to reauthorize the Surface Transportation Act. He advised crafting a plan that covers a shorter time period and is therefore less expensive.

We are wrapping up the month with two days of meetings with members of the House of Representatives, including the offices of Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV), Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA), Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI), Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), and Rep. Janice Hahn (D-CA).

As spring comes early to Washington, we hope there will also be a thaw in Congress that will enable us to get the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act attached to legislation and voted on. Progress is always more difficult in an election year, but with your support we will persevere. Thank you for all you do for NIA and the industry, and I wish you a prosperous spring.

Regards,
Michele M. Jones
Executive Vice President/CEO