

Mechanical Insulation: Making Headlines

There's something about spring that gives me a renewed sense of optimism. And with the many exciting events happening in our industry this month, I believe that we are in a great position to accomplish our goals and ultimately advance the objectives of the mechanical insulation industry.

This month, mechanical insulation has made headlines. Capitol Hill's annual High Performance Building Week, which took place May 14 to 19, again served to "heighten awareness and inform policymakers about the major impact buildings have on our health, safety and welfare and the opportunities to design, construct and operate high-performance buildings that reflect our concern for these impacts." NIA worked with several representatives, including Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-IL) and Rep. Don Manzullo (R-IL), to help draft speeches that focused on the importance of mechanical insulation and promoted the passage of H.R. 2866. In a speech on May 16, Rep. Manzullo spoke about mechanical insulation to the members of Congress:

"One of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to improve building performance is to ensure that mechanical insulation systems are properly installed. While most of us think that insulation is only for walls and attics, mechanical insulation is a vital component for commercial, industrial, and educational applications."

If you are interested in watching Rep. Manzullo's full speech, click [here](#).

As more public figures recognize the benefits of mechanical insulation, our industry will gain greater acknowledgement for being a surefire way to boost energy efficiency and cut costs. To further that cause, the Alliance strategically met with House and Senate representatives who have a stake in the mechanical insulation industry and are well-positioned to cosponsor H.R. 2866 and S. 1526.

On May 21 and 22, the Alliance met with staff members of House representatives, with mechanical insulation manufacturers and facilities in their districts, including the following: Rep. Herger (R-CA), Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), Rep. Woodall (R-GA), Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH), Rep. Rodney Alexander (R-LA), Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-MO); Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL); and Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH). Additionally, the Alliance met with Rep. Ralph Hall (R-TX), the Chairman of the House Science Committee. The Alliance also met with staff members of key Senate decision makers on May 9, including Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho, Senate Finance), Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK).

As a result of our advocacy, the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act (H.R. 2866) is steadily gaining new cosponsors. This month, four new representatives signed on to the bill, including Rep. Ben Chandler (D-KY), Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX), Rep. John Dingell (D-MI), and Rep. Van Hollen (D-MD). Now at 59 cosponsors, the bill continues to gain momentum in Congress. We remain cautiously optimistic for its eventual passage.

Our pilot programs for the Department of Defense and state of Montana have also generated interest this month. NIA was contacted by the Department of the Army, who requested information about our pilot programs and our ability to potentially conduct an energy assessment for the Army in order to make their facilities more efficient. While this query may take some time to formulate and gain ground, we are determined to work with all groups that are interested in reducing energy costs.

I want to thank you for your ongoing support and involvement, as we work together to promote the mechanical insulation industry. I know that we would not be in the strong position we are in today, without the support of NIA members who have attended meetings, written letters, and donated to the Foundation. As a result of your contributions, we are able to bring much-needed attention to the industry. However, the battle is not over and we need your continued participation and financial support to sustain our progress. Please consider making a pledge to NIA's Foundation now, as we gear up to promote mechanical insulation this summer.

Regards,
Michele M. Jones
Executive Vice President/CEO