

Insulation Advocate

Insulation Advocate: Update on January and February's Activities **Full Speed Ahead**

The start of 2015 and the 114th Congress began with a flurry of action for the National Insulation Association (NIA). As you may remember, in 2014 we were able to secure the introduction of H.R. 4801, the Thermal Insulation Efficiency Improvement Act. This bill directs the Secretary of the Department of Energy to prepare a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use for potable hot water, and was ultimately passed through the U.S. House of Representatives by a voice vote. Unfortunately the bill was never considered in front of the Senate in 2014 before the end of the 113th Congress.

We are pleased to report that once again Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) and Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-CA) have agreed to pursue this same legislation on behalf of NIA and have re-introduced our bill as H.R. 568. NIA and The Keelen Group have been in constant communication with both the sponsors of our bill and with the House Energy and Commerce Committee in regard to once again moving our legislation through the Committee and onto the House floor for consideration by the full House of Representatives. We are also looking for a bipartisan pair of Senators to introduce the same bill in the U.S. Senate as companion legislation, and hope to be able to report to you soon on this endeavor.

Working on our behalf, The Keelen Group has also been continuing discussions with the offices of Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) and Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) on including our language in their comprehensive government and industry energy efficiency package, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, which they have been pursuing for many years. We will continue to work on including our language from the Thermal Insulation Efficiency Improvement Act into the underlying Senate bill, or ensure the support of adding our language as an amendment when this legislation makes it to the Senate floor for debate and consideration.

We look forward to having Matt Keelen, President of The Keelen Group, join us at the NIA's 60th Annual Convention in San Antonio this month, where he will be able to expand and update us on where these initiatives stand and our pursuit of further opportunities in states throughout the country.

Collaborating with other organizations is an excellent way to promote common goals. One of the organizations we are working with is the Alliance to Save Energy, which recently created an Energy-Water Nexus Subcommittee. The energy-water nexus refers to the efficiency issues surrounding energy and water, since water is often used in the production of energy. Mechanical insulation obviously has tremendous potential in this area, since it can significantly reduce energy

usage and optimize performance, thus saving both resources. The Subcommittee is making the promotion of mechanical insulation one of their top priorities, and we look forward to further collaborating with this group to increase the use of insulation and the awareness of its benefits.

Recently, NIA signed onto a letter penned by the Family Business Coalition in support of the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015. This act aims to repeal taxes that businesses must pay when ownership of a business is transferred due to death. NIA joined more than 50 groups in support of this legislation, which we hope will ease the burden on businesses and help spur economic growth. We also added our support to a letter from the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), which voiced support for S.535, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015. This bill would enact policies that advance energy efficiency through reduced regulatory burdens, increased transparency, and a focus on the federal government as a first mover to save taxpayer dollars on energy bills.

NIA is not planning to slow down, and we will continue to aggressively pursue all avenues that can increase the awareness of the benefits of insulation as well as its use. Of course, we depend on the active participation of our members to help guide our vision and our path forward. I hope to see all of NIA's members in San Antonio for our 60th Annual Convention March 25-28. This Convention, which marks the 60th anniversary of our meeting, is the best place to network with peers, participate in industry discussions, and be a part of making the insulation industry stronger.

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.