

Insulation Advocate

Insulation Advocate: Update on July 2014's Activities

Building Strategies for the Fall

Activities have been slowing down on Capitol Hill as Congress begins its August recess. Before taking leave for August, however, Congress passed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which the President signed into law on July 22, 2014. This legislation seeks to streamline and customize federal workforce programs to produce the trained workers our evolving economy needs. Given that mechanical insulation workers are among the top 5 fastest growing occupations, and the need for these workers is projected to grow 46.5% by 2022, our industry must take advantage of any and all training opportunities available.

The need to develop more training programs factored into my decision to join the Commercial Workforce Credentialing Council's (CWCC's) Board of Advisors earlier this year. I worked with the other members of the CWCC's Board to establish 5 key occupations in order to improve the quality and consistency of the commercial building workforce. Creating these positions and their job descriptions will help us offer updated training programs that will be third-party accredited, industry endorsed, and recognized by the Department of Energy (DOE). While Congress is recessed, we will be considering our options and the best way to make use of this new legislation and work it into our training agenda.

In July, the National Insulation Association (NIA) also added our support to a coalition opposing an amendment that was added to a bill that recently passed the House: H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2015. NIA joined 29 organizations in signing a letter to oppose this amendment in the Senate. If this language is adopted in the Senate version of the bill, it would negatively affect water conservation by eliminating funds utilized for certain high-efficiency plumbing appliances. We feel strongly that eliminating any incentive to save water is detrimental to ongoing efficiency efforts, and hope that the Senators to whom we sent the letter take the coalition's point of view into consideration when creating their version of this bill and rescind this amendment.

While Congress is in recess, NIA will be taking time to strategize and create a plan to accomplish our upcoming initiatives. As mentioned in last month's *Insulation Advocate*, one of our top priorities will be introducing the Thermal Insulation Efficiency Improvement Act in the Senate, and we have begun the process of seeking out Senators who may want to join us in our efforts to get this bill passed and signed into law. We have scheduled a meeting with the Senate Energy and Natural

Resources Committee to discuss moving our bill through the Senate, and are hopeful that we will be able to garner support in this important Committee. *Insulation Advocate* will be back in September with the latest updates from Capitol Hill and our strategic endeavors.

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.