

## **Insulation is Featured Topic at Congressional Hearing June 2013**

The momentum of the past few months has continued forward, and there have been a number of exciting developments in June. In the first weeks of June, NIA launched a far-reaching grassroots effort, asking our members to encourage their Congressional Representatives to support the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act of 2013, or H.R. 184. In under a month, more than 100 letters have gone to members' Representatives urging them to lend their support to this crucial legislation by becoming cosponsors, and also asking them to join the High-Performance Building Caucus. Though we are pleased with the response, we need more Representatives to hear from different companies and members in their districts before the August recess. Visit [www.insulation.org](http://www.insulation.org) for more information on the grassroots effort, instructions on how to contact your Representative, and sample letters.

On June 27, NIA Past President Ron King testified before a joint hearing of the Subcommittee on Oversight and the Subcommittee on Energy; both committees are under the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. The hearing, "Green Buildings: An Evaluation of Energy Savings Performance Contracts" focused on assessing the usefulness and impact of Energy Service Performance Contracts (ESPC). An ESPC is an agreement between a Federal agency and an energy service company (ESCO), allowing the ESCO to implement an energy savings project and guarantees that the improvements they recommend will save enough money in energy costs to pay for the project. Also testifying were Dr. Kathleen Hogan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency, U.S. Department of Energy; Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, Jr., Associate Administrator, Mission Support Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and Jennifer Schafer, Executive Director, Federal Performance Contracting Coalition.

After hearing about the benefits of mechanical insulation, Paul Broun (R-GA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight, asserted "I hope our government will start looking more at insulation as a process." Representative Dan Lipiniski (D-IL), concurred saying that mechanical insulation "could be very helpful for manufacturers and industries who are trying to boost their competitiveness." We hope to capitalize on this momentum to leverage increased support for our legislative initiatives and express how insulation can be the solution to energy, financial, and environmental concerns. The opening statements of the witnesses, Subcommittee Chairs, and a video of the hearing are available at <http://tinyurl.com/ot6denj>. Watch your inboxes for a press release with more details on this hearing.

Working in concert with our legislative partners on Capitol Hill, NIA also successfully included insulation language in the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013, commonly known as the Farm Bill. Representative Michael Grimm (R-NY), the sponsor of the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act in the House, was able to include amendments asking the Department of Agriculture to submit to a cost analysis of how much money they could save through the use of insulation. The Farm Bill passed in the Senate and was expected to pass in the House of Representatives, it failed to get the

votes needed. Though the bill did not pass, we are encouraged by the fact that we were able to successfully include insulation language in this legislation.

In other news, Certified Insulation Energy Appraisers are now eligible to receive credit for a math or science elective toward a seminar or capstone at Thomas Edison State College; this credit may also be transferable to other colleges. Thomas Edison State College has a long history as a national leader in the assessment and evaluation of professional education and training programs. The credentialing review was funded by an energy-related training grant awarded to the New Jersey State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) Council and overseen by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the New Jersey Pathways Leading Apprentices to a College Education (PLACE). The SESP Council provided the funding for IEAP credentialing as part of its focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy industry training. For more details on becoming a Certified Insulation Energy Appraiser visit <http://www.insulation.org/training/>.

NIA is excited to be such a prominent part of energy efficiency discussions on Capitol Hill, and we hope that our combined efforts will yield concrete benefits to our members and the industry. We will continue to represent your interests, but there is no substitute for direct action. Now is the time to get involved! Write, call, and email your Representatives! Make sure they understand how important it is to support their constituents and together, we can show our leaders that insulation is a tremendous resource with unparalleled potential to address concerns about energy efficiency, environmental impact, and the economy.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele M. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Michele M. Jones  
Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer