

Insulation Advocate

Insulation Advocate: Update on May's Activities Congress Moves Closer to Passing Comprehensive Energy Package

As the warmth of summer weather spreads across the country, the 2015 summer session of Congress continues to heat up as well. The House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Power continues to move forward in its pursuit of a broad-based, comprehensive energy package. At the same time, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources continues to hold hearings and craft a comprehensive package of its own.

As we have shared in prior issues of *Insulation Advocate*, we were successful in having our language from H.R. 568, the Thermal Insulation Efficiency Improvement Act, included in the draft energy efficiency title of the House package. The Thermal Insulation Efficiency Improve Act would require the Secretary of Energy to prepare a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use when examining potable hot water use in federal buildings. As a part of the process in constructing this package, the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power has been holding a series of hearings to discuss these provisions and hear from both private stakeholders and government officials on the proposed provisions. On June 3, the Subcommittee held a follow-up hearing on the energy efficiency title and heard from Dr. Kathleen Hogan, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). We were grateful to hear her state that the Obama Administration is committed to working with Congress in a bipartisan fashion to see this package come to fruition and continue to pursue energy-saving solutions.

While the Senate has not yet released language of its draft package, we have received positive feedback from both Republican and Democrat staff members on the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and fully expect our language from H.R. 568 to be included in their energy efficiency title as well. Over the next couple of months, we expect these packages to be put together and acted upon in both the House and Senate. Keep your eyes on these updates over the next couple of months as we move closer to passing further thermal insulation provisions through Congress.

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.