**NIA has been advocating for the insulation industry on your behalf. If you would also like to advocate for yourself, we have drafted a letter for you to personalize and send to your members of Congress.**

**Subject Line: Make mechanical insulation installation contractors essential services during COVID-19 pandemic**

Dear :

As the United States Congress and state/local governments across the country enact necessary preventative measures to protect citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Insulation Association (NIA) urges you to deem the installation and maintenance work done by America’s insulation contractors and installers as essential services and exempt them from local, state, and federal shutdown or shelter-in-place orders. By keeping insulation installers and mechanical insulation contractors at work, it can help reduce both the current public health and unemployment crises as the collective insulation industry generates more than 550,000 jobs in the United States and collectively supports a $33 billion payroll. As recommended by OSHA and the CDC, construction sites have enacted additional health and safety protocols that include measures related to social distancing.

Insulation manufacturers and contractors are necessary for the manufacturing of materials and products needed for medical supply chains, construction, pharmaceutical, transportation, energy, oil and gas production, chemical production and manufacturing, communications, food and agriculture storage, nuclear facilities, the operation of dams, water and wastewater treatment, emergency services, and defense industrial bases in order to maintain and keep these recognized essential sectors operating.

The professional contractors represented by NIA protect the health and safety of the American people. Insulation contractors and products protect and maintain hospitals, medical labs, schools, military housing, grocery stores, pharmacies, and other infrastructure actively providing critical care and resources to people in need of assistance. Their work helps to provide and maintain safe sources of potable water, offers personnel protection from extreme temperatures of equipment, ensures proper and healthy process control, not to mention the economic savings from proper installation and maintenance of mechanical and industrial systems. Proper installation of mechanical insulation also helps to ensure climate conditions and indoor air quality for work environments in commercial and industrial facilities, especially in critical infrastructures such as hospitals and manufacturing facilities. Our work is vital to helping overcome the obstacles and disruptions to the daily lives of American citizens created by this virus.

NIA contractors are ready and committed to help when called, and we strongly urge you to allow us to continue our important work on construction job sites. We appreciate your diligence and understand the need for our political leaders to take strong precautions to contain the COVID-19 outbreak—we simply ask that you ensure that essential mechanical insulation installation and maintenance services are not withheld from the public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,