

# INDUSTRY MESSAGE



## The Strength of Our Connections

If you are reading this Industry Message while you are attending Fall Summit, I do hope we get a chance to say hello and catch up, because that is what it really is all about—members engaging, elevating, and educating each other. This members-only event takes place over a day and a half, and we manage to squeeze in a lot, offering 20 hours of educational content and three opportunities to network with each other. I am also very happy to see that we are expecting a high number of attendees, too!

This time together will be the first chance for members to hear much more about the outcomes of our Long Range Planning Committee Meeting that took place in July, and the three resulting strategic objectives that were approved by the full NIA Board of Directors in September and will be our focus for the next 3 years.

Here are several of the Fall Summit highlights I am looking forward to:

- Election + Legislative Outlook + Impacts for the Insulation Industry—the Vogel Group's Stephen Borg and Matt Keelen will provide their insider political perspectives on potential policy implications, energy and carbon management platforms and incentives, and supply chain updates.
- Expert Insights: Developing and Retaining Talent—Moderated by NIA Member Tom MacKinnon from Armacell with FMI's Darice Michelle Thompson and PCI's Michelle Weakley, this panel will delve into the worker shortage topic and share practical tools and strategies.
- The Contractor Showcase is back for a second year. In addition to seeing who wins the competition this year, I want to check out the creative solutions to the common issues our industry faces. (Turn to page 10 to see our final article from the 2023 Showcase, featuring NIA member company Gribbins Insulation & Scaffolding.)
- The true core of Fall Summit is the forum-style sessions for each of NIA's member types, from Associates to Contractors to Distributors to Fabricators, and more—this is our chance to come together for the advancement of our industry.

When I am asked what I look forward to when NIA members get together at Fall Summit and our Annual Convention, it is seeing industry friends and clients I don't get to see very often, as well as meeting so many new folks. In my first Industry Message as your President, I shared that I cannot even estimate the number of times I have reached back to the network and relationships I have built by attending and participating in NIA events. My advice: Make the most of this time together. It is truly one of the most tangible ways to experience **Strength in Numbers**. If you missed this opportunity, do not miss out on your next chance, at NIA's 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, April 28–30, 2025, at the Grand Hyatt Scottsdale Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. The Convention website has everything you need to know at [www.insulation.org/convention2025](http://www.insulation.org/convention2025).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Bittner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jack Bittner  
President  
National Insulation Association