

## SUPPORT THE FEDERAL MECHANICAL INSULATION ACT

Dear Representative:

The undersigned organizations would like to request your support for the Federal Mechanical Insulation Act (FMIA), H.R. 4663, introduced on July 14, 2023, by Representative Randy Weber (R-TX) and Linda Sánchez (D-CA) and referred to the Energy and Commerce Committee. We are pleased to announce that the National Insulation Association (NIA), which is the industry's leading trade association, has announced its support of H.R. 4663. Please see the updated list of undersigned organizations and companies that support this important legislation.

According to a December 2022 report from the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), the federal government is the single largest energy consumer in the United States — approximately 350,000 buildings used more than 344 trillion Btu of energy and 119 billion gallons of water in fiscal year 2021, according to Department of Energy data — and federal agencies are required by statute to conduct energy and water use evaluations, which include energy audits, of federal facilities every four years to identify energy- or water-saving efficiency measures. However, this same GAO report determined that only one (1) of the 27 largest federal agencies surveyed met this energy and water use evaluation requirement.

This legislation seeks to ensure that federal buildings are utilizing an important technology for energy efficiency that is often overlooked: mechanical insulation. Mechanical insulation is engineered and designed to be applied to mechanical systems including piping, equipment, vessels, HVAC, boilers, and similar equipment and is quite different from building envelope insulation designed for walls and ceilings. FMIA is supported by a diverse array of industry stakeholders such as business and labor interests, including many of the country's small business contractors who are members of the Mechanical Insulators Labor Management Cooperative Trust, the Central States Insulators Association, the Eastern States Insulation Contractors Association, and a National Union Insulation Contractors Alliance.

Following a mechanical insulation energy audit, which analyzes potential energy savings according to specifications of a building's mechanical equipment, installation of mechanical insulation helps an engineered system function at a specific operating temperature while minimizing energy loss. The U.S. Department of Energy and North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA) together have developed a computer program, 3E Plus, that determines how much insulation is necessary to lower energy use and improve efficiency and plant operations.

Mechanical insulation improves working environments, reduces energy demand, lowers energy costs, and increases the asset value of a building. It accomplishes all of this while creating tens of thousands of American jobs - the U.S. Department of Energy's Save Energy Now program has estimated that increased maintenance of mechanical insulation in areas where it is missing or damaged could promote American manufacturing, as 95% of materials required for these opportunities are made in the United States, with most of the remainder produced in Canada.

The Federal Mechanical Insulation Act makes changes to the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) to clarify that energy and water evaluations (i.e., audits) already required under law should include mechanical insulation, where appropriate. In recognition of the

important role that mechanical insulation plays in lowering operating expenses, reducing energy loss, and decreasing emissions, the legislation makes the following three specific changes to portions of the EISA:

- **defines “mechanical insulation property”** as materials, facings, and accessory products that are part of a mechanical system and that reduce energy loss from that mechanical system –thereby allowing for the inclusion of these items as qualifying energy and water efficiency measures; and
- **expands the definition of “energy and water evaluations”** to include identification of energy- and water-saving measures (including installation of mechanical insulation property, if applicable); and

The Federal Mechanical Insulation Act is a cost-effective and commonsense step that Congress can take to unlock a shovel-ready approach to create jobs, improve operating margins, reduce emissions, and ensure that federal buildings are utilizing an important technology for energy efficiency that will save taxpayer dollars, all while contributing to the nation’s continued economic recovery. We urge you to support and cosponsor this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BuildingAction

Central States Insulation Association (CSIA)

Eastern States Insulation Contractors Association (ESICA)

International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers (HFIAW)

Mechanical Insulators Labor Management Cooperative Trust (LMCT)

Midwest Insulation Contractors Association (MICA)

National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)

North America’s Building Trades Unions (NABTU)

National Insulation Association (NIA)

National Union Insulation Contractors Alliance (NUICA)

Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART)

Insulation Contractors Association of New York (ICANY)

Industrial Insulation Contractors Association of Southern NY (IICASNY)

#### SUPPORTING COMPANIES

Advanced Specialty Contractors

Anchor Insulation LLC

APi Construction Company

Argus Contracting

Atlantic Contracting & Specialties

Bondy Insulation

Burnham Industrial Contractors, Inc.

Coldwater Insulation, Inc.

Cornerstone Services Group LLC

DKB, Inc.

Gribbins Insulation

Hailey Insulation Corp.

Hamilton Insulation, Inc.

M & O Insulation Company

National Environmental Contracting, Inc.

Owens Corning

Prime Insulation LLC

Rival Insulation

RFJ Insulation Contractor, Inc.

Smart Energy Insulation

Summit Contracting