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Contact: Caitlyn Freitas
Associate Editor
703-464-6422 ext. 118
Cfreitas@insulation.org

NIA Past President Testifies at Congressional Subcommittee Hearing

On June 27, 2013, Ron King, Past President, President Advisor, and Consultant to the National Insulation Association (NIA), testified at a hearing held by the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittees on Oversight and Energy, "Green Buildings—An Evaluation of Energy Savings Performance Contracts." The Subcommittees are part of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. The Subcommittee on Oversight is chaired by Paul Broun (R-GA), and the Subcommittee on Energy is chaired by Cynthia Lummis (R-WY). The other witnesses 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 Ms. Jennifer Schafer, Executive Director, Federal Performance Contracting Coalition.

Ron testified as part of the Energy Service Performance Contract (ESPC) discussion. The ESPCs allow Federal agencies to implement energy savings projects and represent an agreement between a Federal agency and an energy service company (ESCO). The ESCO conducts a comprehensive energy audit for a Federal facility and identifies areas for improvement. The ESCO then works collaboratively with the Federal agency to create a project that addresses the agency's needs and guarantees that the improvements will save enough money in energy costs to pay for the project. After the contract concludes, all additional cost savings accrue to the agency.

Thermal insulation for mechanical systems is a frequently overlooked resource that has the potential to provide tremendous savings and a quick return on investment for numerous ESPC applications. NIA estimates that implementing a comprehensive mechanical insulation maintenance program in the commercial and industrial market segments could lead to annual

- energy savings of 1.22 quads of primary energy or \$3.8 billion
- return on investment range from 25%–100%
- CO₂ reductions of 105 million metric tons (MMTCO₂)

The increased use of insulation also has potential to create direct and indirect jobs, and over 95% of insulation materials are made in the United States, which is a uniquely high percentage for the

manufacturing sector. Utilizing more thermal insulation could play a huge role in creating jobs, lessening environmental impact, and decreasing America's reliance on foreign energy sources.

Ron's testimony raised the profile of thermal insulation in energy discussions and also spread awareness about NIA. The opening statements of the witnesses, Subcommittee Chairs, and a video of the hearing are available at <http://tinyurl.com/ot6denj>.