



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF

Heat & Frost Insulators & Allied Workers

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Office of the General President
December 21, 2018

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Pelosi and Leader Schumer:

I write to commend your leadership and support for clean energy initiatives in 2019 infrastructure legislation.

I wholeheartedly concur with your approach that infrastructure legislation presents an important and necessary opportunity to address climate change. Infrastructure and clean energy both enjoy bipartisan support and both are urgently needed for our nation. Traditional infrastructure improvements to move people and product more efficiently are needed to reduce both congestion and carbon; the inclusion of clean energy incentives complements, and should not complicate, the enactment of infrastructure legislation.

As the committees of jurisdiction work to develop infrastructure and clean energy legislation, I encourage your support for the following principles and policies:

Achievable Over Aspirational - The reality of climate change demands that we take immediate action to reduce carbon emissions. Another important reality is that our nation will continue to require considerable fossil energy to ensure reliable baseload power for today and tomorrow. I do not discourage ambitious and aspirational goals for a 100 percent clean energy economy, but the clean energy infrastructure legislation must focus on what can be achieved now.

Bipartisan and Balanced - Energy policy is often divisive, and I encourage your support for energy efficiency investments that have consistently enjoyed strong bipartisan congressional support. Controversial energy proposals should not be included in infrastructure legislation. Clean energy incentives should include both technologies, like mechanical insulation, that are already available for increased utilization, and investments in research and development to promote new clean energy technologies. There should be a level playing field for all clean energy technologies.

Labor Standards - I greatly appreciate Senator Schumer's letter to President Trump that contains specific support for essential building trades labor standards (Davis-Bacon prevailing wages, use of Project Labor Agreements) to ensure that infrastructure and clean energy jobs are good jobs. These labor standards recognize that infrastructure should be built by the best trained and most productive and safest construction workers.

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Support For Mechanical Insulation Incentives - The promotion of commercial and industrial insulation, collectively known as mechanical insulation, must be included in the 2019 clean energy legislation. Mechanical insulation is a proven energy efficiency technology that promotes our national energy, economic and environmental goals.

Increased utilization of mechanical insulation saves energy for commercial buildings and industrial facilities that makes our nation more energy independent. The energy savings of mechanical insulation also help our economy as our manufacturing sector becomes more competitive in the global economy. As a result of reduced fossil-fuel energy consumption, mechanical insulation also reduces carbon emissions.

I encourage your support for the following mechanical insulation incentives:

*Mechanical Insulation Incentive bill (H.R. 3349), legislation to provide tax incentives for greater utilization of mechanical insulation.

*Improve the Section 179 (d) tax incentive to ensure that mechanical insulation is fully utilized for commercial building energy efficiency improvements

*Improve Building Codes to require mechanical insulation upgrades for new construction and retrofit maintenance for existing facilities

*Support mechanical insulation investments in public building projects with particular emphasis on U.S. military bases and health care and education facilities

*Support policies to maintain and improve our carbon-free nuclear energy facilities

*Support federal initiatives to promote Combined Heat and Power facilities

*Support federal initiatives to promote the construction of LNG export facilities constructed with Project Labor Agreements.

Thank you Leader Schumer and Leader Pelosi for your recent statements of support for the necessity to include clean energy incentives in infrastructure legislation. Our union supports your efforts, and thank you for your consideration of our recommendations for the 2019 clean energy infrastructure legislation.

Sincerely,



James P. McCourt
General President

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cc: General Executive Board
All U.S. Local Union Business Managers