

NEWS

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CNAIMA Head Hails Inclusion of Home Star in New Senate Energy Package – Urges Swift Action

Washington, D.C. – The head of America’s leading association of insulation manufacturers today praised Majority Leader Harry Reid’s (D-NV) inclusion of Home Star in the new Senate energy package and urged the full Senate to move swiftly in adopting the bipartisan residential energy retrofit initiative.

“We’re indebted to Majority Leader Reid and to our bipartisan champions, Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), and Mark Warner (D-VA), for recognizing that Home Star means an immediate infusion of jobs in the depressed home construction and renovation industries,” said Kate Offringa, the president and chief executive officer of the Council of the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (CNAIMA). “By adding Home Star to the energy package that will be considered next week, the Majority Leader has taken a huge step toward creating immediate and productive jobs for small businesspeople in distressed communities across the country.”

Yesterday Reid announced that Home Star would be an integral part of a scaled-down energy package. “Home Star is a bipartisan energy efficiency program that will not only lower consumers’ energy costs, but create American jobs that can never be outsourced,” Reid said in making his announcement.

“CNAIMA couldn’t agree more with the Majority Leader’s assessment,” said Offringa. “We urge the full Senate to expedite its action on Home Star. The sooner Congress can get Home Star onto the President’s desk for his signature the sooner we can get contractors all over the country back on the job and plants running at full capacity.” Unemployment in the housing construction business, Offringa noted, has been running two-and-a-half times the national average.

Conservative estimates suggest that Home Star will generate 168,000 jobs over its first 18 months of implementation. Home Star, a rebate program that encourages homeowners and home builders to install energy-efficient materials such as insulation, passed the House of Representatives in May with a dozen Republican votes and has already attracted three Republican cosponsors in the Senate. Most insulation materials are manufactured here in the U.S.; those jobs cannot be shipped overseas, Offringa noted. She also pointed out that studies suggest Home Star will help America conserve energy by enabling most homeowners to reduce their utility bills by between 20 and 40 percent.

“Within a month of Home Star’s enactment, contractors will be on the job,” Offringa said. “We’re grateful that the Majority Leader has moved so quickly. If the full Congress follows suit, contractors will be able to take advantage of the fall retrofit season.”

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About the Council of NAIMA

The Council of the North America Insulation Manufacturers Association advocates for policies and programs that encourage and incentivize increased energy efficiency through insulation in new and existing residential and commercial buildings and industrial applications. Membership in the Council of NAIMA is open to thermal and acoustical insulation manufacturers – regardless of insulation product type – and their suppliers located in North America.