

**TESTIMONY OF: James Cassidy**  
**HB 491, Expanding the Use of Mechanical Insulation in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs**  
**Public Hearing**  
**The House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee**

Good Morning House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee Chairman Matzie and Minority Chair Marshall, and the members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you this morning regarding HB 491, Expanding the Use of Mechanical Insulation in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs, which would incentivize the energy efficient installation of mechanical insulation for commercial and industrial projects. This hearing is critical for the proper review of PA Rep. Young's important legislation and I respectfully request the Committee's strong support of it.

I am here today as a Business Manager of Insulators Local 2, chartered on December 10, 1904, we have thrived in Southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond with our dedication to the community by education of leadership, preserving its rich historical significance, and growing with technology toward the future.

HB 491 would expand the use of mechanical insulation for existing energy efficiency and conservation programs under Act 129 of 2008. Mechanical insulation is used to insulate equipment or processes unlike building insulation, which is used in walls and roofs. Insulating and jacketing specific mechanical systems results in reduced energy use, reduced energy cost, enhances performance and provides added safety benefits.

Act 129 of 2008, requires electric distribution companies to complete an energy efficiency and conservation plan. This plan must be approved by the Public Utility Commission (PUC). As part of that process, the PUC approves cost-effective plans in reducing energy consumption. Mechanical insulation is a currently recognized interim measure protocol and incorporated into the Technical Resource Manual (TRM).

This legislation would expand upon that development by ensuring that all uses of mechanical insulation would be approved for Act 129 programs. This will eliminate the need to wait for the TRM to be fully reopened. Further, this would permanently ensure that mechanical insulation qualifies under Act 129 and avoids the need for the periodic review by the PUC.

From a workforce perspective, our Insulation Industry International Apprentice and Training Fund, finances the training department for the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Union and its signatory contractors. These efforts work in conjunction with the insulation industry's Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (J.A.T.C.) labor-management group, which works to provide the best-trained insulation workers with the skills necessary to meet industry needs now and in the future. Our workforce training includes: OSHA 10- and 30-hour safety training courses, asbestos removal and mediation, lead removal and mediation, firestop, energy audits, CPR and first aid training courses, and professional code of conduct program.

The International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Professional Craftsman Code of Conduct (PCCC) is a program to promote jobsite excellence and customer satisfaction. The goal of the PCCC is a job built on time, under budget, and built right the first time. The "Quality Control Craftsman" (QCC) has the full responsibility for communicating the PCCC to all members and employers, and insuring both are fully meeting their responsibility to our PCCC. The PCCC instills in our members and employers pride in their craftsmanship and accomplishments. This is truly the hallmark of my members' work.

We know that properly installed mechanical insulation saves money, improves lives and protects the environment. This isn't "the latest thing" to us as cost efficient, energy friendly insulation has been our lifeblood for our entire existence since 1903. Per the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE), properly installed mechanical insulation provides long-term energy efficiency, emission reduction, cost savings and safety benefits. ASHRAE has stated that insulation can reduce the number of tons of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, prevent loss of energy, control condensation, protect occupant safety and public health wellness, and regulate surface temperature.

The National Insulation Association, the approximately 350-member trade association representing the mechanical and specialty insulation industry since 1953, estimates that maintenance of insulation at industrial facilities alone can generate more than \$3.6 billion in energy savings per year, and reduce 83 billion pounds of carbon dioxide.

With new construction, a properly designed and installed insulation system provides an excellent return on investment and quick payback through cost savings. With insulation's energy-saving qualities, a properly designed and installed insulation system immediately reduces the need for energy and results in significant savings. Our members and affiliated insulator contractors are well-prepared to create a sustainable environment in buildings and facilities through insulation.

With growing awareness about the advantages offered by mechanical insulation in recent years and per the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall employment of insulation workers is projected to grow 3 percent from 2020 to 2030 due to the need to make new and existing buildings and systems more energy efficient, which will ultimately drive the demand for mechanical insulation workers. Per the Bureau, roughly 6,000 openings for insulation workers are projected each year over the next ten years. In Pennsylvania, employment opportunities continue to rise in the construction industry; especially in warehousing and utilities, which all need proper mechanical insulation systems.

This legislation is a timely and I would be happy to further discuss this legislation or the importance of mechanical insulation. I look forward to the continued dialogue on this important legislation and please call upon me be a resource to you and your Committee.

Thank you, House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee Chairman Matzie and Minority Chair Marshall, and the members of the Committee, for the opportunity to testify on this important legislative issue affecting Pennsylvania's construction industry.