President Lance Pickering and his wife, Renee, wish to extend a warm MICA invitation to you to join them as our association engages in “Getting Involved”. One of the key benefits of belonging to MICA is your ability to work with fellow members to improve your business acumen and to better your industry. Come and participate as we share ideas at our annual convention this June 22 – 25, 2015, at one of the Midwest’s most unique resort and conference centers; the Blue Harbor Resort & Spa. Nestled on the western shore of the always-majestic Lake Michigan, this picturesque and stately home-away-from-home presents a stunning view all unto itself. With 180 hotel rooms and 64 villas, Blue Harbor offers a wide variety of accommodations perfect for our annual convention. Our 58th Annual Spring Convention will be a special event, and one that you do not want to miss! The convention will follow a Monday to Thursday pattern that we have used the past three years. Based on feedback from our members, we have moved the arrival date from Sunday of Father’s Day to Monday. This will allow our members to possibly spend Father’s Day at home with family and friends. The location of this year’s meeting is designed to allow those of you who would like to extend the meeting into a vacation time for the entire family to do so. At Blue Harbor, you have both Lake Michigan and the Sheboygan River in your back yard. Recreation activities are diverse, whether it’s a rollicking visit to the year-round indoor waterpark and mini-golf course or a relaxing stroll on one of the eco-friendly lakeshore trails. When you’re at The Blue, relaxation, fun and comfort are intertwined. The resort restaurants include the premier Latitude 43 or casual Beacon, all with extraordinary views. Treat yourself to the expertise and personalized care available at Reflections Spa. Shopping, golf, watersports and charter fishing are just a few minutes away on foot or by car. Make a sand castle at the beach, take a long nature walk along the shoreline or try a real water adventure by sailing, kayaking or stand-up paddleboarding. If fishing or golf is your game, you’re in luck: The resort has partnered with local charter fishing services as well as The Bull, a Jack Nicklaus course that’s just 10 minutes away. For those that love to shop, Blue Harbor offers some unexpected, delightful choices at The Boutique and its other retail stores. More shops — as well as an assortment of bars and restaurants — are a short walk away at Sheboygan’s quaint Harbor Centre. Deeper into this family-friendly city, a wide range of museums and entertainment awaits. We have reserved a block of rooms at the resort. Our convention rate for resort rooms is $145 per night plus tax, single or double occupancy plus a resort amenity fee of $10.00 per day. It is highly suggested that you book your resort reservations now! Call the reservations office at 866-701-2583 and reference the Midwest Insulation Contractors code -- 7AL45L. Please note that we have blocked a limited number of rooms. If you wait until the last minute to reserve your room, you run the risk that our block will be filled, and the resort will not have any additional rooms available. As we have stated in the past, if you reserve your hotel room now, you can always cancel it later, but you may not be able to reserve a room if you wait too long. We will be monitoring our block and making room adjustments accordingly. Our block of rooms will be released on May 21, 2015, but if you wait until May 21st, the block of rooms will be filled, and we may not be able to accommodate your needs. The Board of Directors is most excited about the technical topics and speakers for the spring convention. The topics and speakers were selected to help educate and inform you on a variety of industry topics pertinent to our current business climate. We are going to have presentations that cover a wide array of topics that will help you grow your knowledge as a business professional. We will have an opening presentation on “Sifting Through the Generational Drama...Reviving the
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

TO: THE MICA MEMBERSHIP

Good Day MICA Friends:

Spring is Here!! Happy Easter

I am sure we can all agree winter is nice for a while, but I can do without the subzero temperatures for a few months.

I hope everyone has seen an increase in work activities. I know bidding has picked up somewhat for us; outage season is in full swing and even our refinery customers are still spending money despite the big drop in oil/gas prices. All signs of a good year ahead.

Lower oil prices do offer our customers some energy savings making insulation payback take a little longer. Even with longer payback, you can still show your customers the benefits of getting their system properly insulated now. Savings start the day you properly install insulation and when the higher price of oil returns, they will already be seeing larger savings from day one.

April is a good reminder that we should be getting our MICA safety award applications submitted (if you haven’t already) and to make your room reservations with the Blue Harbor Resort for the June convention. The hotel always fills up fast so don’t wait until the last minute if you want to insure that you receive the MICA room rate. June will be here before we know it.

Everyone should have received the convention packet. I believe your BOD has prepared a great selection of speakers and educational topics that will surely make this year’s convention a great value to you and your company. I am looking forward to seeing every member “Get Involved” during this convention so you, too, can reap all the benefits of being a member of the leading trade association in our insulation industry.

Enjoy the spring, be safe, and remember to watch out for motorcycles.

Renee and I are looking forward to seeing you at The Blue Harbor Resort in June.

Thanks for reading.

Respectfully,

Lance Pickerign
MICA President
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FUTURE MICA MEETING DATES

58th Annual Spring Convention — June 22 — 25, 2015, Blue Harbor Resort, Sheboygan, Wisconsin. [Please note that the convention will begin on the Monday after Father’s Day. This slight change in the schedule is the direct result of member feedback to the Board].

Fall 2015 Annual Fall Business Meeting — October 21 & 22, 2015, Embassy Suites Downtown, Omaha, NE.

59th Annual Spring Convention — June 20 — 23, 2016, Chateau on the Lake, Branson, Missouri. [Please note that the convention will begin on the Monday after Father’s Day. This slight change in the schedule is the direct result of member feedback to the Board].

Fall 2016 Annual Fall Business Meeting — October 19 & 20, 2016, Embassy Suites Downtown, Omaha, NE.

MICA MEMBER ADDRESS/INFO. UPDATES

Be sure to inform the MICA office of any changes or corrections to your listing for either the MICA Directory, e-mail correspondence or mailing address. Even if you update your company listing on the MICA website, please inform the MICA office of the changes. We try to be as current as possible with your help.

Fascination We Once Had for Our Differences”. As the baby boomers age and the younger generation of people move into the workplace, the need for understanding generational differences is crucial for business survival. Our keynote speaker, Ms. Karrie Landsverk, Partner and Director of Education with AmericanWay University in Portage, WI, will address this topic in an entertaining and educational morning session. Dr. Linda Goldenhar, Director of Research and Evaluation at CPWR: The Center for Construction Research and Training, will give us her insight on improving our company’s safety culture with her presentation on, “Making a Positive Difference in Construction Safety and Health by Improving Safety Culture, Safety Climate, & Safety Leadership”. Gary Auman will provide an extended update on OSHA requirements that will include a discussion on how to document recordables properly as well as other recordkeeping and reporting issues. We will hear from Alec Rexroat as he provides an enlighten presentation on the efforts of the Labor Management Trust to promote the mechanical insulation industry to a national audience. You will be updated on the new MICA plates that have been added to the 7th edition of the National Commercial & Industrial Insulation Standards manual in 2015. Mr. J. Kenneth Freeman, NIA President for 2015 – 2016, will give us an update on our industry activities at the national level.

We will have a union contractor forum, an open shop contractor forum, and an associate member forum all running simultaneously. This approach allows more of the members to participate in craft issues without being part of a formal committee. This spring, neither the labor committee nor the merit shop committee will formally meet during the convention. This format will give each of you the opportunity to interact with other MICA members with similar business concerns. The associate member forum will discuss several issues of interest to our associate members regarding their membership status in MICA.

In June, we will recognize those companies that participated in our tenth annual “Best Practices in Safety” Award. This award was established to formally recognize our member firms’ efforts in safety and safety practices. This year, we again use the changes that we made to the “Best Practices in Safety” Award program. We will use the grading system that recognizes each applicant’s achievement in developing a quality safety program. With this system, companies are not competing against each other for awards. Instead, each applicant will try to achieve the highest award level where multiple applicants can receive the same award level. On our second day of meetings, representatives of the participating firms will meet in a roundtable discussion on safety. They will share with us their efforts in promoting safety and establishing best practices in safety.

The Board of Directors feels that each presentation will add value to your understanding of the technical topics discussed. You will come away from the convention more informed and better prepared to successfully manage your business. It is the Board’s intent to make this convention attractive to our mem-

(Continued from page 1)

(Continued on page 7)
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bership in its location, cost and program content. In this light, our registration fee has been adjusted to encourage additional member participation. The registration fee is $515.00 for the first attendee from a member company. Registration for all additional attendees from a given company is reduced to $490. The registration fee is $915.00 for the first member and spouse registered from a member company. Registration for all additional registered couples from a given company is reduced to $890. This year we have included a children’s registration for the Welcome Reception and Farewell Brunch events only. The fee is $50.00 to $100.00 per child. The Board is delighted to offer this new incentive for multiple attendees from member companies. The benefit of joining an association comes from participating in association activities.

The seventeenth annual “Mick Van Horn Memorial Golf Tournament” is set for Tuesday afternoon, June 23, 2015, at The Bull Golf Course at Pinehurst Farms. We have a shotgun start set for 1:00 p.m. The Bull is a Jack Nicklaus designed Signature Course, and was Ranked #70 Public Golf Course in America (Golf Digest 2015-2016). The course is about a 30 minute drive from our host hotel, and a shuttle will be provided. This year’s fee is $140.00 per golfer, which includes a shuttle to and from the course, The Bull’s Wisconsin Burger & Brat Buffet, cart, green fees, complimentary use of practice and range area, and of course, prizes. Please read the golf registration carefully. Payment for golf must accompany the registration fee. Please complete the golf portion of the registration form as fully as possible, especially the handicap information. This is essential for us to properly match the foursomes. You need to register for the golf tournament by May 22, 2015.

The program also affords you ample time for fun and relaxation and to interact with your fellow contractors and distributors. We have the traditional opening evening Welcome Reception. This year’s reception is sponsored in part by the contributing associate members. We will feast on hors d’oeuvres, libations, and renew friendships. Our gala dinner and dance will be on Wednesday evening. This year’s gala is semi-formal dress. We will honor Alec Rexroat, Past President and long-time member of MICA, with the “William R. Heaston Outstanding Member” award. Alec is an ambassador extraordinaire for MICA and the insulation industry. He truly exemplifies the virtues reflected in Bill Heaston of selfless service to MICA and the insulation industry. The recognition ceremony will take place during our Wednesday evening gala.

A packet of registration material was mailed to you in March. Let us know if you need another packet. Make plans now to bring your family to the MICA convention and extend your business to include some quality family time. Now is the time to plan for your participation at MICA’s 58th annual spring convention. Make your hotel reservations today by calling The Blue Harbor Resort reservation line at 866-701-2583. Please join Lance, Renee, the entire Board of Directors and fellow MICA members in Sheboygan, June 22 – 25, 2015, for our annual spring convention and be a part of “Getting Involved”.

(Continued from page 5)
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CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY

COALITION REPORT ON OCCUPATIONAL

EXPOSURE TO CRYSTALLINE SILICA

A new report released today by the Construction Industry Safety Coalition (CISC) found that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) proposed silica standards for U.S. construction industry will cost the industry $5 billion per year—roughly $4.5 billion per year more than OSHA’s estimates. The coalition cautioned that the flawed cost estimates reflect deeper flaws in the rule and urged the federal agency to reconsider its approach.

OSHA’s proposed rule, intended to drastically reduce the permissible exposure limit (PEL) of crystalline silica for the construction industry, has been underestimated by the Agency to cost the construction industry about $511 million a year. The new estimates released today by CISC estimate that the costs to the industry will actually be approximately 10 times the OSHA estimate—costing nearly $5 billion a year.

The cost and impact analysis from OSHA reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of the construction industry. The OSHA analysis included major errors and omissions that account for the large discrepancies with the CISC report. The CISC report estimates that about 80% of the cost ($3.9 billion/year) will be direct compliance expenditures by the industry such as additional equipment, labor and record-keeping costs. The remaining 20% of the cost ($1.05 billion/year) will come in the form of increased prices that the industry will have to pay for construction materials and building products such as concrete block, glass, roofing shingles and more. OSHA failed to take into account these additional costs to the construction industry that will result from the proposed standard, which will then be passed down to customers in the form of higher prices.

Not only will the proposed rule be more costly than originally estimated, but it would translate into significant job losses for the construction industry and the broader economy. The CISC estimates that the proposed regulation would reduce the number of jobs in the U.S. economy by more than 52,700 yearly. That figure includes construction industry jobs, jobs in related industries such as building material suppliers, equipment manufacturers and architects, as well as losses in non-construction sectors. Additionally, the losses are full time employee positions. Factoring in the many part-time or seasonal jobs, that number could increase to close to 80,000 positions lost.

“We are deeply concerned about the misguided assumptions and cost and impact errors that OSHA has relied upon in creating this proposed rule that will significantly affect our industry,” said NAHB Chairman Tom Woods, a home builder from Blue Springs, Mo. “This report reveals the critical need for OSHA to withdraw its proposed rule until it can put forth a technologically and economically feasible rule that also works to improve industry workers health and safety.”

“This report clearly demonstrates OSHA’s lack of real world understanding of the construction industry and raises serious questions about their ability to responsibly craft industry standards,” said ABC Vice President of Government Affairs Geoff Burr. “We hope that this report will lead OSHA to withdraw its proposed rule and work more closely with the construction industry to emphasize compliance with the current standard.”

“These errors raise serious and significant questions about many of the other assumptions the agency relied upon in crafting its new rules,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, the chief executive officer of the Associated General Contractors of America. “We need measures in place that are going to allow all of us to continue the significant improvements in silica safety the industry has made, and the sad truth is that the agency’s rule is too riddled with errors to do that.”

"The assumptions that were made by OSHA in developing this rule are completely off base and we hope this report adequately tells the truth of what this rule will truly mean to the construction industry. We believe the current silica rule has done a fantastic job of reducing related illnesses so much so that it is still declining every year and current projections have it being eliminated over time," according to Jeff Buczkiewicz, President of the Mason Contractors Association of America. "Our industry needs a rule that is based on real world construction site scenarios that is not technologically and economically infeasible to implement and this report clearly shows that this rule does not fit that bill."

The full CISC report, which was also submitted to OSHA, can be found at: www.nahb.org/silicareport.
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DODGE MOMENTUM INDEX DIPS IN MARCH

The Dodge Momentum Index dipped slightly in March, falling 2.1% to 122.3 (2000=100) from February’s 124.9, according to Dodge Data & Analytics. The Momentum Index is a monthly measure of the first (or initial) report for nonresidential building projects in planning, which have been shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full year. Despite the March decline, the Momentum Index has trended higher over the last 12 months. For the first three months of this year, the Momentum Index has averaged 122.5, a 12% gain over the first three months of 2014. This rising trend in the Momentum Index points to increased construction starts through at least early 2016.

Planning activity in both the commercial and institutional sectors fell in March, with declines of 1.9% and 2.4%, respectively. There were ten projects valued at $100 million or more that entered planning during the latest month, comprised of seven commercial projects and three institutional projects. In the commercial sector the following projects entered planning – the $400 million Five South Development in Bismarck, ND, the $233 million Rossville Shopping Center in Staten Island, NY, a $150 million store and office complex in New York, NY, a $120 million hotel in New York, NY, the $100 million second phase of the Miami River Village Boutique Hotel, the $100 million Grand at Papago Park mixed-use complex in Tempe, AZ, and the $100 million MetroCenter shopping center in Phoenix, AZ. Entering planning in the institutional sector were the $250 million first phase of the Children’s Hospital of New Orleans in New Orleans, LA, the $125 million Reynolds School District Bond Projects near Fairview, OR, and the $100 million expansion of the Christiana Hospital in Newark, DE.

CONSTRUCTION PUT IN PLACE TO GROW 8 PERCENT IN 2015

Total construction put in place for 2015 is predicted to grow 8 percent according to the latest report from FMI. This supports earlier FMI predictions that CPIP will top $1 trillion in 2015, something the market has not seen since 2008. This indicates that the economy is on track for a resilient recovery.

(Continued on page 21)
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"The current growth cycle appears to be broad-based and sustainable," says Randy Giggar, managing director of research services for FMI. "Most of the new construction activity is in the private sector. Projects dependent on government spending, especially those involving infrastructure, continue to be at the mercy of politics."

Geographically, larger cities are experiencing strong construction growth due in part to increases in rents and declining inventory for housing and office space. The sectors expected to experience the highest growth rate are:

- Lodging construction – 16 percent CPIP growth.
- Commercial construction – 15 CPIP growth.
- Manufacturing construction – 11 CPIP growth.
- Office construction – 11 CPIP growth.
- Residential construction – 9 percent CPIP growth.

EMPLORER EXPOSES 3 WORKERS TO ASBESTOS DANGERS IN HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Nearly invisible to the eye, asbestos fibers can literally take someone's breath away. Fibers in the air can be inhaled unknowingly and trapped in the lungs. Regular exposure to asbestos can cause serious respiratory illness and several forms of cancer.

Three workers removing thermal pipe insulation at an unoccupied residence on North Second Street in Harrisburg were exposed to these serious risks because their employer failed to protect them properly.

U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspectors found that First Capital Insulation Inc. of York regularly exposed employees to asbestos hazards.

"Asbestos exposure can cause chronic lung disease and cancer. With the right safeguards, employees can be protected from these deadly hazards," said Kevin Kilp, director of OSHA's area office in Harrisburg. "We found employees removing insulation containing asbestos without first wetting the material, which reduces the danger of exposure. A little water could have made all the difference and the company knew this."

First Capital Insulation faces a $490,000 penalty for seven willful violations, including allowing workers to remove asbestos improperly; failing to make sure their employees' respirators fit correctly; and not decontaminating employees and their clothing before leaving the work site.
The National Insulation Association (NIA) is pleased to announce dates and locations for upcoming training programs, and NIA's Annual Conventions. Each of these events provides targeted opportunities for NIA members and mechanical insulation professionals to improve their craft, develop professional networks, and grow their businesses.


2013-15 NIA PRESIDENT DAVID DZINA HONORS GARY W. AUMAN WITH NIA’S PRESIDENT’S AWARD

At the National Insulation Association's (NIA's) recent 60th Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas, 2013-15 NIA President David Dzina presented NIA's General Counsel Gary W. Auman with the 2014-15 President's Award.

The President's Award can be given by the outgoing president to an individual whose dedication, service, leadership, and actions have brought forth positive changes for NIA and the mechanical insulation industry. Since the award was first presented in 1971, there have only been 20 men and 1 woman who have received this prestigious lifetime achievement award.

In choosing to surprise Mr. Auman with the President's Award, Mr. Dzina said, "Since 1993, Gary has played an instrumental role within our association. His passion and dedication have led him to become our association's OSHA expert, and he has used that role to place safety as one of NIA's strategic initiatives. His leadership and activities with the Health and Safety Committee have provided our members with immeasurable opportunities to better their safety programs for the benefit of both the member companies and their employees. The Theodore H. Brodie Distinguished Safety Award would not be what it is today if it were not for his leadership and involvement."

Mr. Auman is a Director with Dunlevey, Mahan & Furry in Dayton, Ohio, and concentrates his practice on occupational safety and health law and workers' compensation defense for small and large companies. With over 37 years of experience, Mr. Auman is a frequent speaker on occupational safety and health topics at seminars and conferences throughout the United States.
The clothing of workers who handle asbestos creates a significant risk for secondary exposure. Its microscopic particles can easily attach to hair, skin and clothes. If the worker and his clothing are not properly cleaned before leaving the work site, others with whom the worker has contact risk secondary exposure. A worker who fails to change out of asbestos-contaminated clothing before returning home can leave fibers embedded in couches, chairs, carpets, beds and other furniture.

OSHA requires employers to treat thermal system insulation and surfacing material found in buildings constructed before and in 1980 as asbestos, unless they can prove that the material is free of asbestos. In this inspection, the building was built in 1928, and the company made no attempt to test the removed materials.

To read the citations, visit http://www.osha.gov/ooc/citations/FirstCapitalInsulationInc_1002754_0420_15.pdf.

First Capital Insulation is an environmental services company. It provides asbestos, lead abatement and insulation installation services. The company has 15 business days from receipt of its citations and proposed penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director, or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

NEW ADMINISTRATION REPORT: EXPORTS HELPING TO SUPPORT JOBS, GROW SMALL BUSINESSES ACROSS AMERICA

U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker and United States Trade Representative Michael Froman released a new report that shows that the number of jobs supported by goods exports continues to rise in states across the country. The report also includes individual success stories, in all 50 states, of small and medium sized businesses that are using exports to expand their businesses and support well-paying American jobs.

“From coast to coast, exports have played a critical role in economic growth and creating jobs in America,” said Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker. “The reports we are releasing today demonstrate the impact of exports on American communities large and small. They tell the story of thousands and thousands of U.S. businesses and 11.7 million American workers whose livelihoods are supported by exports each and every day. President Obama has set an ambitious trade agenda that will put American workers first by creating opportunities for our businesses to sell their goods and services to the 95 percent of consumers who live outside the U.S. This agenda includes passage of trade promotion legislation and the enactment of strong trade agreements that are essential to job creation, the economic security of our families, as well as our nation's competitiveness and national security.”

“This report shows that the President’s trade agenda puts American workers first,” said U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Michael Froman. “In every state across the country good-paying jobs are tied to “Made in America” exports. This report also tells the story of American small businesses that will benefit from tearing down trade barriers in markets around the globe, and this is where we see a lot of opportunity for growth and more trade supported jobs. With the Trans-Pacific Partnership we have a once-in-a-generation chance to unleash the economic potential of American small businesses and to level the playing field for our workers.”

The United States of Trade report also includes the most current data for all 50 states on the overall value of
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goods exports and on exports to countries involved in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), as well as data on the number of exporters and the percent of exporters that are small- or medium-sized businesses. The Administration report was released in conjunction with the Jobs Supported by State Exports 2014 economic brief from the Department of Commerce, which showed that 43 states registered increases in the number of jobs supported by goods exports from 2009-2014.

For the past 40 years, Congress has enacted trade promotion authority (TPA) legislation to help guide both Democratic and Republican Presidents in pursuing trade agreements that support U.S. jobs, eliminate barriers to U.S. exports, and set rules to level the playing field for U.S. companies, farmers, ranchers and workers. TPA allows Congress to set high-standard objectives and priorities for U.S. trade negotiators and establishes a process for consulting with Congress and the public.

**NIA’s 2015 Fall Summit and Insulation Expo USA to be Held October 27-28, 2015, near Chicago, Illinois**

The National Insulation Association's (NIA's) Fall Summit, formerly Committee Days, will take place October 27-28, 2015, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois, which is adjacent to O'Hare Airport and 20 minutes from downtown Chicago. As part of the 2015 Fall Summit, NIA is collaborating with Reed Exhibitions to host Insulation Expo (IEX) USA, the first North American international tradeshow for the mechanical insulation industry.

For more than a decade, NIA's Committee Days has been a successful committee-focused event. Now, NIA is excited to announce a value-added and open format to provide even more targeted opportunities for NIA members and mechanical insulation professionals to improve their craft, develop professional networks, and grow their businesses. NIA's Fall Summit is an annual 2-day event that includes topical speakers, open committee meetings, tailored industry sessions, and networking opportunities to develop new business relationships. NIA's goal is to provide actionable content that companies can implement immediately to improve their businesses.

NIA's Executive Vice President/CEO Michele Jones noted, "NIA's Fall Summit will bring a new format that will
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MacArthur has over 40 distribution and manufacturing locations across the country.
focus on member-driven educational programming and increased business networking opportunities together with an opportunity to be with mechanical insulation end users. This is an audience that has been missing from our event programming thus far. We are excited about the collaboration with Reed Exhibitions to launch IEX USA, and by our members' response to this new opportunity to build their businesses by reaching engineers and mechanical insulation end users. This opportunity serves our mission to increase awareness of our industry's products and services, and we encourage all members to attend this exciting new industry event."

At NIA's recent 60th Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas, NIA members discussed the new Fall Summit format at each committee meeting and provided suggestions for the event.

NIA was also pleased to have representatives from Reed Exhibitions onsite in San Antonio to share the latest information about IEX USA to Convention attendees. The IEX USA tradeshow will bring mechanical insulation product supply-chain exhibitors, such as manufacturers, distributors, fabricators, and contractors, to name a few, together with mechanical insulation end users, such as engineers, specifiers, plant managers, architects, contractors, building inspectors, and code officials representing the commercial, industrial, and manufacturing sectors. The IEX USA tradeshow will take place every other year.

For more information about exhibiting at IEX USA, please visit www.iexusa.com or contact Reed Sales Manager Dennis Adley at dadley@reedexpo.com or 203-840-5971. Visit www.insulation.org/events/ for more information about NIA's upcoming events or contact events@insulation.org.

PREVAILING WAGE REPEAL MAY BE TUCKED INTO WIS. STATE BUDGET

Repeal of Wisconsin's requirement that workers on government projects be paid state-mandated wages may be added to the state budget rather than debated as separate legislation, its Assembly sponsor said earlier this month.

Rep. Rob Hutton, R-Brookfield, told reporters that Republicans who control the Legislature are debating whether to add repeal of the state's prevailing wage laws to the 2013-15 budget. He said the move would not be aimed at limiting public scrutiny of Assembly Bill 32 and Senate Bill 49 but because the measure's fiscal impact may make the budget a better home for it.

During a press conference, Hutton stood with a contractor whose company is constructing a $400,000 metal building for the West Bend Municipal Airport. Bob Ford of Ford Construction described his "bad experience" trying to determine the appropriate prevailing wage on the project and to document it for regulators.

Glen Allgaier, a member of the Elmbrook School District board, projected his district would save hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in construction and debt costs if prevailing wage were repealed.

A Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance study found that the way Wisconsin calculates prevailing wage inflates by about 45 percent the wages and benefits paid to workers on local government, school and state building and road projects.

The study -- funded by Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin which favors repeal -- found governments in the state could save $200 million to $300 million a year by changing the prevailing wage calculation to better match actual wages paid in a community.

"It has long been a concern that prevailing wage results in the inflation of construction costs for publicly funded projects," Hutton said. "At the same time, our prevailing wage law often discourages our small business community from participating in the bid process for projects that are publicly funded. We don't believe that this system serves Wisconsin, our business community or our citizens well."

But a Legislative Fiscal Bureau memo said assumptions that savings from lower wages would automatically be passed along to governments is flawed. The fiscal bureau found that "the evidence on prevailing wage effects generally range from relatively small effects to no statistically significant effects."

The Wisconsin Contractor Coalition, which opposes repeal, cited a 2013 Bowling Green University study of 1,500 public school projects in Ohio that found "no evidence" that exempting them from prevailing wage requirements had saved any money.

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Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca, D-Kenosha, said repealing the prevailing wage would be "another huge hit against the middle class and small businesses in Wisconsin."

"The bottom line is that Wisconsin has a system that works and Republicans want to dismantle it knowing that it will drive down wages," Barca said.
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