President Sends Consumers, Taxpayers a Stocking Stuffer by Signing Energy Efficiency Bill

Published on **20 Dec 2012** | Written by **Bryan Howard** , **Bryan Howard** | Posted in **Advocacy and policy**

Photo credit: Glyn Lowe Photoworks via Flickr

On Tuesday, President Obama signed into law H.R. 6582, the American Energy Manufacturing Technical Corrections Act. The bill garnered broad support: a 398-2 vote in the House of Representatives and a unanimous consent vote in the Senate.

The bill is a potpourri of different provisions from other proposed legislation this year, including S. 1000, a comprehensive energy efficiency bill; S. 398, a proposal to implement appliance standards; and a host of other bills. H.R. 6582 reflects the recommendations of the business community and efficiency advocates on improving existing requirements for a litany of appliances. It also directs federal agencies to reduce energy use through various efficiency measures. A full summary of the bill is available from our friends at the Alliance to Save Energy.

Passage of the bill could not have come soon enough for Unico Inc., a small-duct high-velocity HVAC manufacturing company from Missouri that, like many other companies, had been operating in an uncertain regulatory environment.

“Unico has operated under a waiver that no longer will be necessary, and this will allow us to grow the business into new markets,” said Shawn Intagliata, president of Unico.

In a statement, retiring Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) also hailed the passage of the bill.

“Energy efficiency cuts waste, saves consumers and businesses money, strengthens our economy, improves electric-grid reliability and reduces pollution," he said. "This bill will save energy and jobs and continue the tradition of collaboration among industry, consumer groups and energy efficiency advocates in improving energy efficiency. I am heartened to see the continued bipartisan commitment to energy efficiency that is demonstrated by the passage of H.R. 6582.”

The bill is much less comprehensive than congressional champions had aimed for, and it accomplishes less than what many in the business or efficiency community may have wanted. However, its passage shows that Congress can find consensus on common sense energy items that help save consumers and the federal government money.

Bryan Howard
Legislative Director

USGBC staff

1 comment

Leave a comment

Brandon Peck — 2 years 22 weeks ago
Dutko Grayling

Well said. Now we just need to remain vigilant about advancing more comprehensive legislation in 2013.

Leave a comment

Don't have an account? Create one

You must be signed in to leave a comment.

Email

Password

SIGN IN

Address
2101 L Street NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20037

Within the United States:
1-800-795-1747

Outside the United States:
1-202-742-3792

© 2012-2015 U.S. Green Building Council