



ei

2014 Hermes Award Winner

the magazine of the *electroindustry*

Published by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association | www.NEMA.org | July 2014 | Vol. 19 No. 7

Connectivity—

Enabling today's innovators

- Transportation
- Home automation management
- Smart Grid
- Medical imaging
- International standards
- Commerce

NEMA

Government Relations Update

› High Performance Buildings Council Rallies Support on Capitol Hill



Members of the High Performance Buildings Council visited with the staff of several House Ways & Means Committee members on May 19. The visit was to rally support for the Commercial Building Tax Deduction (179D) and reforms to it (179F) as Congress considers how to address more than 60 temporary tax policies (tax extenders) that expired at the end of 2013. From the left, Patrick Hughes, NEMA; Keith Cook, Philips; Steve Rood, Legrand; Jay Goodman and David Errigo, LumenOptix; and Joseph Eaves, NEMA. *Photo by Jim Creevy* ☺

› Advocating for Open Trade in Energy-Efficient and Energy Control Equipment

NEMA Vice President for Government Relations Kyle Pitsor testified before the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), the inter-agency committee on trade matters, to advocate for inclusion of energy-efficient products and smart energy control/management devices within the scope of a new initiative to open trade through the elimination of customs duties, also known as tariffs.

Mr. Pitsor's June 5 testimony to TPSC followed written comments NEMA filed with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in May. The Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA), which involves 14 World Trade Organization members, is an outgrowth of an earlier initiative in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, and was called for by President Obama in his June 2013 Climate Action Plan. Negotiations on which products to include in EGA are underway.

Tariffs are assessed by government authorities on many imported products. While U.S. tariffs are generally low, many countries maintain tariffs of 7-18 percent on electroindustry products, which can disadvantage foreign products and raise customer costs.

In his remarks, Mr. Pitsor emphasized that NEMA member companies are leaders in providing demand management and energy-efficient products and technologies to the U.S. and global markets. These technologies, if deployed and utilized, lead to far more efficient use of energy sources and, in turn, reduce the amount of greenhouse gases across all sectors of the economy. Smarter use of electricity can significantly reduce consumers' financial burden, which strengthens their purchasing power and the overall economy. An array of highly energy-efficient products and smart energy control and management devices should be included in EGA, Mr. Pitsor concluded.

Specifically, NEMA recommended the following product types be included:

- solid state light sources, electronics, and lighting fixtures
- lighting controls and addressable ballasts
- premium efficiency and advanced technology electric motors
- variable speed electric motor drives

- premium efficiency electric transformers
- batteries and energy storage technologies
- smart electricity meters
- electric vehicle supply equipment
- programmable thermostats
- HVAC and ventilation controls

Mr. Pitsor pointed out that every country can benefit from more controlled and efficient use of electricity, since every watt saved is a watt that does not have to be generated. As many WTO members as possible should join EGA, he added.

To remain relevant, EGA must help facilitate tariff-free trade in environmental goods by adapting to the availability of new products and know-how. EGA should be subject to regular review by signatories, and open to new participating countries as well as new products and technologies he concluded. ☺

Craig Updyke, Manager, Trade and Commercial Affairs |
craig.updyke@nema.org