Energy Efficiency Legislation Finally Heads to President’s Desk

This afternoon the House voice voted to approve S. 535, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015, and will send the measure to the President’s desk. The bill, which the Senate passed by voice vote in March, would loosen efficiency standards for grid-enabled water heaters, increase efficiency in government data centers and promote efficiency in commercial, residential and federal government-owned buildings. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), have introduced various iterations over the last several years. Previously in the 114th Congress a version of the legislation, S. 128, was adopted as an amendment to a separate bill (S. 1, to approve the Keystone XL pipeline) but was vetoed by the president on Feb. 24. The House passed a similar efficiency bill, H.R. 2126 in the 113th Congress, by a vote of 375-36 in March of 2014, but the Senate never acted on that measure.

The bill would establish a program called “Tenant Star” that would certify and recognize commercial building tenants for achieving high levels of energy efficiency, as well as require the General Services Administration to develop model commercial leasing provisions to encourage commercial building owners and tenants to invest in cost-effective energy and water efficiency measures. Energy efficiency and conservation offer immediate and cost-effective opportunities to reduce energy cost inputs both in the public and private sectors. Today’s commercial, public and residential buildings use almost 40 percent of the energy consumed in this country. Manufacturers produce the equipment, technologies, and supplies used to upgrade the energy efficiency of our buildings. We believe by expanding the use of energy efficiency equipment and technologies we will reduce energy demand and in doing so improve our nation’s energy security.

A wide range of cost-effective energy-efficiency technologies produced by manufacturers are readily available today. Greater product implementation means job growth in manufacturing and will support and create manufacturing jobs. Manufacturers applaud the House for passing this common sense, bipartisan energy efficiency measure that would create jobs by saving energy in industrial, commercial, and residential sectors.

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)