

Garage Door Tax Credits Endangered by Legislation

DASMA Takes its Case to Washington

New proposed legislation would essentially kill the eligibility of insulated garage doors for the \$1,500 U.S. energy tax credit in 2010. On Nov. 20 and again on Dec. 7, DASMA sent a delegation to Washington, D.C., to present the industry's case for continuing the tax credits for insulated garage doors.

The legislation is found in a Senate bill (S.1792) introduced on Oct. 15 and an identical House bill (H.R. 4112) introduced on Nov. 18. If enacted, the legislation would limit the tax credits in 2010 to only Energy Star program products. The eligibility of insulated garage doors would then end on Dec. 31, 2009, instead of Dec. 31, 2010.

DASMA Presents Its Case

The DASMA delegation met with aides to more than 10 senators and representatives, including many co-sponsors of the bills. The Senate bill has been referred the Senate Finance Committee, while the House bill has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

"If DASMA had not responded, I'm sure this thing would've sailed through, and it still might," says delegation member Steve Lynch, president of Clopay Building Products. Lynch adds that all senators' aides appeared supportive of DASMA's position to continue the energy tax credit for insulated garage doors.

Contact Your Legislators Now

DASMA is urging dealers and other manufacturers to contact immediately their senators and representatives to express support for modifying the bill to specifically include insulated garage doors. Since the bill is a minor amendment, it can get approved quickly and without formal debate.

Two key senators are Sen. John Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), the Senate bill's major sponsor, and Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.), chair of the Senate Finance Committee. Two key representatives are Rep. John Yarmuth (D-Ky.), the bill's sponsor, and Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. Contacts with these individuals could be critical to the success of the DASMA effort.

What to Say

When you contact your legislator, DASMA suggests using the following language:

Please amend S. 1792 / H.R. 4112 so that garage doors continue to be eligible for the Energy Tax Credit. This new bill refers to Energy Star which doesn't include garage doors. The existing credit has vastly improved energy

efficiency in homes in our area, and the credit has stimulated badly needed sales in our depressed market.

Please add this language at the end of Sect. 1 (a) and at the end of Part III, Sect. 1121 (4). After "... January 4, 2010), please add "or is an insulated garage doors that is equal to or below a U factor of 0.30 and SHGC of 0.30."

Energy Star and Garage Doors

The Energy Star program addresses "windows, doors, and skylights" and does not presently include garage doors. Since garage doors are used differently from entry doors or windows, DASMA maintains that the requirements for garage doors should be different.

DASMA has been preparing for the eventual inclusion of garage doors in the Energy Star program. Working with the National Fenestration Rating Council, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency, DASMA is developing testing and performance criteria for garage doors. However, the work is expected to take months to complete.

Track the Bills

The complete text of the Senate bill (S.1792) is at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.1792:>

Its current status can be tracked at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:s.01792:>

The complete text of the House bill (H.R. 4112) is at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.4112.IH:> Track its status at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:h.r.04112:> ■

