June 1, 2017

Representative Joe Aresimowicz
Speaker
Connecticut House of Representatives

Representative Themis Klarides
Minority Leader
Connecticut House of Representatives

Representative Matthew Ritter
Majority Leader
Connecticut House of Representatives

Re: SB 821, Proposed Product Warranty Legislation

Dear Representatives Aresimowicz, Klarides, and Ritter:

On behalf of the Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA), I would like to express serious concerns related to SB 821. This bill was approved by the Senate on May 17 and is now pending in the House. It is my understanding that the House may consider this bill any day now.

SB 821 is overly vague and would expand the coverage of Connecticut’s product warranty statute to situations that have nothing to do with product defects and that are usually outside the scope of a warranty. As passed by the Senate, SB 821 would mandate that manufacturers’ warranties cover labor costs related to products that fail for a wide range of reasons, including improper installation, exposure to chemicals, harsh exposure to the environment, misuse or abuse, improper maintenance, alteration or product modifications, normal wear and tear, and natural weathering.

It is unreasonable and unfair to single out specific products for such treatment, as is done under this legislation. Manufacturers for these products already have warranties in place to protect consumers from legitimate defects or failures, and many of these warranties will cover the replacement costs of a defective product. Targeting residential roofing, windows, and siding is unnecessary and will only serve to increase the cost of these products for Connecticut consumers.

PIMA is the national trade association for companies involved in the manufacturing of rigid polyiso foam insulation, and has a nationwide presence with facilities located across the United States, including in Connecticut. Please contact me should you have any questions (jkoscher@pima.org; (703) 224-2289).

Sincerely,

Justin Koscher
President