



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Jeffrey A. Smith
Communications Director
202-587-5109
jsmith@vinylsiding.org

VSI President Kate Offringa Testifies in Opposition To Concrete Masonry Bill

July 10, 2015 – WASHINGTON, D.C. – Vinyl Siding Institute (VSI) President Kate Offringa today presented VSI member opposition to a bill in Congress that would in effect provide a federal subsidy to help the concrete masonry products industry to promote its products.

Offringa testified before the Committee on Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

As the vinyl siding industry spokesperson, she said the industry opposed “H.R. 985, Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2015” for four primary reasons:

1. The concrete masonry industry is free to do collective research, education and promotion of its products through its multiple trade associations.
2. Federal sponsorship of a check-off program amounts to a subsidy for the concrete masonry industry.
3. This bill would create a non-level playing field for competitive products like those manufactured by the companies VSI represents.
4. Creation of a check-off program for the concrete masonry industry will set a precedent encouraging manufacturers of all sorts of products to seek similar assistance from the federal government.

“VSI will continue to educate lawmakers about the pitfalls of this draft piece of legislation,” Offringa said.

The hearing can be viewed [here](#) and Offringa's full testimony is [here](#).

About the Vinyl Siding Institute

The Vinyl Siding Institute, Inc., located in Washington, D.C., is the trade association for manufacturers of vinyl and other polymeric siding and suppliers to the industry. VSI is the sponsor of the *VSI Product Certification Program* and the *VSI Certified Installer Program*. For more information, visit www.vinylsiding.org, Facebook (www.facebook.com/aswv.vsi) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/vinylsidinginfo).

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