

June 23, 2014

Dear Senator/Representative:

It is not often that an opportunity comes before this country that can put Americans back to work, ease our balance of trade, strengthen our position in the world and help to power and heat nations with cleaner-burning fuels. We are fortunate that we have just such an opportunity before us now – an opportunity to maximize the positive impact of America's energy boom through exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

In the last decade, shale energy development in the United States has skyrocketed. The economic benefit of this boom is no secret – the sector supports millions of jobs and is contributing billions of dollars to national, state, and local economies nationwide. While more research is necessary to ensure that the development of natural gas is being conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, the potential benefits of exporting LNG are too important to overlook.

Recently the economic consulting firm NERA issued its second report extolling the economic benefits of expanding LNG exports, saying they could “accelerate the return to full employment.” Earlier NERA estimated in a Department of Energy study that LNG exports would put 45,000 unemployed Americans to work between 2013 and 2018 and contribute \$20 billion to our economy by that time. While these gains can only be realized if and when environmental protection is ensured, the promise – given remarkable progress in advanced extraction practices – is real.

There are two dozen LNG terminal export facility requests awaiting review and approval by the U.S. Department of Energy. America recently became the largest producer of natural gas in the world. Therefore we have the capability to supply nations from Asia to Europe, where natural gas prices remain high and volatile. Supply lines can be threatened by political maneuvering, as we have seen recently in Eastern Europe. Not only would expanding our natural gas exports be an economic boom to this country, but it also would provide other nations with a competitive alternative.


And thanks to the United States' world-leading gas production, we have the supply to export while still meeting and exceeding our own energy demands. This keeps prices stable, and encourages ongoing growth in manufacturing and industrial sectors here at home.

Because America's natural gas deposits are spread wide across this country, and tens of thousands of independent businesses, both large and small, are supporting the exploration and production of natural gas, the benefits of expanding the market will impact our cities and hundreds of others. We urge you to support legislation that will remove barriers and encourage the Department of Energy to quickly approve pending LNG export facility applications. This is a rare opportunity and we need a sense of urgency to take full advantage of it.

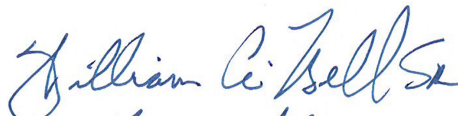
Sincerely,


Meridian, MS


Mayor Percy Bland
Meridian, MS


Mount Vernon, N.Y.


Mayor Ernest D. Davis
Mount Vernon, NY


Mayor of Birmingham Al.

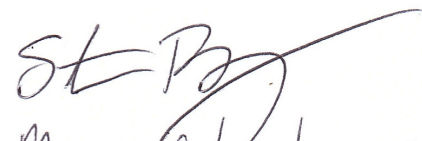
Mayor William A. Bell
Birmingham, AL


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