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TIM RYAN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO
July 18, 2014

US Department of Energy
Attn: Proposed Procedures
Office of Oil and Gas Global Security and Supply,
Office of Fossil Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 3E-042,
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Proposed Procedures for LNG Export Decisions

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my support for the U.S. Department of Energy's proposal to amend its process for review of applications to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) to non-free trade agreement countries. According to its *Federal Register* notice dated June 4, 2014, DOE would cease issuing conditional licenses to export LNG to non-free trade countries, and instead would prioritize review of projects near completion of environmental permitting under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). DOE proposes to act on LNG applications 30 days after the publication of a Final Environmental Impact Statement.

These changes would create several benefits over the status quo "first come, first served" method DOE has used to date for review of LNG export applications. By prioritizing LNG projects that have substantially completed their NEPA review, DOE would provide a clear path forward for projects that are commercially mature to receive evaluation of their export applications. The proposed procedure would ensure that applicants otherwise ready to proceed with construction are not held back by their position in the current DOE queue. This change would increase the transparency and certainty of the regulatory process for LNG projects, thereby facilitating competition and the development of markets for U.S. natural gas. The proposed procedural revisions also would assure that DOE's input is timely and relevant as a participatory agency in the NEPA review process.

The United States is home to abundant low-cost natural gas resources, and our domestic industry is a global leader in developing and deploying advanced technologies in the field. As the Department's own studies demonstrate, expanded exports clearly benefit the public interest, and LNG applicants have waited far too long for review by DOE as one part of a long and complex regulatory process. This new process will streamline the approval of applications and spur investment and job creation in the manufacturing and energy industries throughout the nation. Increased LNG exports can also help us to better aid our allies in Central Europe and Asia by

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giving them an alternative source for natural gas and help diminish their reliance on Russian energy. DOE's proposed procedural changes represent a step in the right direction to provide greater clarity for participants in this review. I urge the DOE to quickly implement these changes and to act in a consistent and expeditious manner in its review of future LNG permits.

Sincerely,



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress