

July 18, 2014

## To Whom it May Concern:

The Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) is pleased to provide comments regarding the proposed procedures for Liquefied Natural Gas Export (LNG) Export Decisions. GJEP is a private nonprofit incorporated organization and the official economic development agency of the Grand Junction, Colorado MSA and surrounding areas. These comments are in support of the acceleration of permitting exports of U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG). Abundant domestic gas supplies - recent estimates project over 100-years' worth- give the U.S. the ability to export while maintaining affordable and competitive prices for U.S. consumers. This means that natural gas use here at home can still be increased, for heating homes and industrial use, while maintaining a surplus for exports. U.S. LNG exports will create jobs, reduce our trade deficit and increase government revenues. In addition to creating jobs and stimulating the economy, U.S. LNG exports will provide geopolitical benefits and advance environmental goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions globally.

The energy industry is a critical component to our local (and national) economy. Predictability and certainty are necessary for the growth and success of this industry. To that end, it is essential our government provide for regulatory certainty to the permitting process for LNG export applications. The regulatory uncertainty brought about by the Department of Energy (DOE) by allowing years of delay in issuing export permits hurts investment and the economy. DOE should accelerate the permitting of LNG exports projects and give the process greater certainty so that the U.S. can maximize the benefits of our natural gas abundance.

Thank you,

Kelly Flenniken **Executive Director** 

Ed Forsman

Chairman of the Board

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