

African American Environmentalist Association

February 9, 2016

U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Docket No.: 2015-32590, Macroeconomic Impacts of LNG Exports Studies

Dear Department of Energy:

The African American Environmentalist Association has a long history of supporting the use and development of U.S. natural gas resources. Hydraulic fracturing has been vital to bolstering the U.S. economy and removing energy vulnerabilities for our national security. We understand that the need for fossil fuels to continue economic growth is unquestionable, and in conjunction, we believe there are more reasonable ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions than prohibiting the use of fossil fuels.

As a result, we support the Department of Energy's (DOE) recently released study that concludes the positive macroeconomic impacts of exporting LNG at higher rates. We believe this is a practical solution and encourages foreign countries to use clean fossil fuels as an alternative to other hydrocarbon fuels such as coal. In addition to the clean energy benefits natural gas provides, LNG exports will encourage economic growth at both national and state levels, while also creating numerous American jobs. The DOE study specifically reports that between 2026 and 2040 an additional \$7-20 billion will be injected into America's GDP if exports are raised from 12 Bcf/d to 20 Bcf/d. The report also found that the effects of increased LNG exports in industry sectors are overall positive and will increase their economic gains in direct relation to the amount of added LNG exports. Another study conducted by [ICF International](#) also concludes that LNG exports will lead to added value to their economy – ranging from \$10 to \$31 billion for producing states and \$2.6 to \$5 billion for non-producing states. That same study also found that up to 665,000 new jobs could be added nationwide as a result of natural gas exports.

However none of these benefits can be realized without an expedited process for LNG export terminal applications. There are currently more than 30 permit applications for LNG exports currently sitting with the Department of Energy (DOE) for final approval. And with no set deadline currently on the Department of Energy to make its final decision on a permit following an environmental assessment by either the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) or the Maritime Administration as a part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), expediting reviews will hold DOE accountable to set deadlines.

The window of opportunity is closing for the U.S. to utilize and encourage this source of clean energy and insure the nation's role in an economically sustainable green future.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments and your consideration of our point of view on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Norris McDonald

Norris McDonald
President