

February 12, 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:

Women Impacting Public Policy has always supported U.S. development of our national gas resources, and as part of that support we are providing a comment to the docket today in support the findings of the DOE's most recent report confirming the macroeconomic benefits of LNG exports in the high export scenario was a welcomed breath of fresh air as the U.S. continues down the road toward economic recovery.

This study and the report released by the DOE back in October 2014, confirm what other independent analysis have forecasted for years: LNG exports is a substantial opportunity to unlock much needed economic growth. The U.S. Energy Information Administration's rising forecasts of natural gas reserves and production strongly suggest that we are in the position to exceed our domestic needs. Just recently, it projected a 56 percent production increase by 2040 for just natural gas, meaning domestic supply will remain well above projected domestic demand. Entering the global market with our excess resources will create huge benefits here at home, especially for our business owners and consumers. A 2015 report by SBE Council confirmed that LNG exports would add more than 293,000 jobs to businesses with fewer than 500 employees across five energy industries.

A separate report by <u>ICF International</u> forecasted up to 665,000 jobs nationally. Yet, even with these forecasts, we still remain bound by slow decision-making in Washington that is jeopardizing our ability to fully utilize this abundant resource. Most of America's LNG export project applications remain in the queue awaiting approval from DOE and the ability to enter the global market won't last forever.

The 4.7 million business women across the country that our coalition represents believe we can help secure the nation's economic future through sound energy policies. Let's streamline the current approval process for LNG exports, ensuring that we will spur more domestic jobs and economic growth—according to DOE's own commissioned analysis—and continue leading the world as an unrivaled energy producer.

Sincerely,

Kristie Arslan
Executive Director

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