

February 12, 2016

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

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

Dear Secretary Moniz:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Two reports, commissioned a year apart by the Department of Energy confirm that Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports will foster tremendous U.S. economic growth. In addition, International Energy Agency (IEA) projections show global natural gas demand rising by 2% per year until 2020. Thus the U.S. must accelerate its approval process for the more than a dozen projects awaiting federal approval to export U.S. LNG.

The role of natural gas in our nation's historic energy boom is extraordinary, as is its huge contribution to all recent improvement in the nation's economy. The U.S. is currently producing natural gas at record rates as a result of the shale revolution, which is resulting in historically low domestic prices. American consumers, businesses and the economy in general are benefiting, and will continue to benefit. The new US supplies are already having impact on European and Asian natural gas prices, and U.S. Henry Hub prices still remain competitively lower providing demand for U.S. LNG in global markets.

Additionally, the U.S. also faces steep competition in the global LNG market and if we don't act quickly to approve permits for pending terminals, we may miss our window of opportunity to supply the global LNG market. With over 45 LNG export projects planned or under construction across the globe, countries such as Australia that will have at least two terminal projects online in the first half of this year could reap the economic benefits of exports, rather than the U.S.

The Department of Energy has moved fairly well and efficiently on LNG export approvals, but the nation cannot afford that process to slow. It damages the national interest if the pace slows, more time elapses and more bureaucratic red tape holds up additional approvals of U.S. LNG export applications. The Administration should approve LNG export terminals sitting idly in the queue and further bolster our domestic economy.

Thank you

Sincerely,

John L. Rafuse