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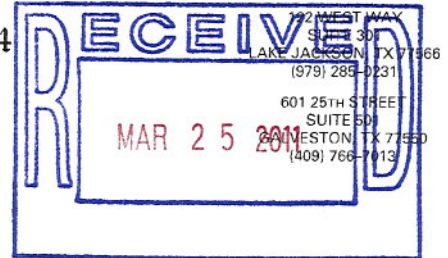
WESTERN HEMISPHERE

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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December 21, 2010

The Honorable Dr. Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

The Honorable Jon Wellinghoff
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Secretary Chu and Chairman Wellinghoff:

I am writing today to express my enthusiastic support for the announced further expansion of the Freeport LNG facility on Quintana Island, Texas. Freeport LNG has been an important part of our state's energy infrastructure, as well as a great corporate neighbor for the nearby communities of Freeport and Quintana. Freeport LNG also has become a significant taxpayer in Brazoria County.

Both the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) played a major role in allowing Freeport LNG's initial \$1 billion investment in energy infrastructure to be built in Texas.

As you likely are aware, Freeport LNG now proposes to expand its liquefied natural gas (LNG) import facility to allow for the export of LNG. The project includes the addition of liquefaction equipment, an additional storage tank, and new docking facilities while utilizing the existing marine berth and two existing LNG tanks. The existing facility and site are very familiar to staff at DOE and FERC as well as other federal agencies due to their involvement in previous permitting activities.

I am excited about this project, which will result in significant new employment and investment in the region. It is also important as it provides demand for the unconventional shale gas resources that are being developed in Texas and across the country – thus retaining jobs and sustaining employment and investment in the production sectors which are important to overall economic health and employment nationwide. The recent development of plentiful new shale gas resources here at home allows the U.S. the ability to be a partner in providing clean natural gas to nations in our hemisphere, in Europe and in Asia.

I am hopeful that familiarity with the project across the relevant federal agencies, Freeport LNG's proven track record, and ongoing oversight at the federal level will allow for an expedited permitting process. The Freeport LNG expansion enjoys broad support at the state and local levels, and we encourage FERC and DOE to work with Freeport LNG to quickly authorize the needed permits to allow this important project to move forward.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
1-888-322-1414

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I am pleased that Texas will be a leader in the country's export initiative, and not only provide new jobs in the production, distribution, and construction industries, but also to be a partner in promoting clean natural gas energy here and in the rest of the world.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ron Paul

cc: FERC Commissioner Philip Moeller
FERC Commissioner Marc Spitzer
FERC Commissioner John Norris
FERC Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur