OFFICE OF THE CO-SPEAKERS

July 25, 2012

Larine Moore and Marc Talbert
U.S. Department of Energy (FE–34)
Office of Natural Gas Regulatory Activities, Office of Fossil Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 3E–042
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Edward Myers
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Electricity and Fossil Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 6B–256
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Via email: fergas@hq.doe.gov

Re: FE Docket No. 12-32-LNG

Dear Ms Moore, Mr Talbert and Mr. Myers,

We are writing in support of the application by Jordan Cove Energy Project, L.P. for long-term authorization to export liquefied natural gas produced from domestic and Canadian resources to non-Free Trade Agreement countries. The Jordan Cove project represents an unprecedented economic opportunity for the State of Oregon, and in particular, the Southern Oregon communities we represent.

At \$6 billion, the Jordan Cove project and its associated Pacific Connector Pipeline would be, by dollar value, the largest private sector investments in Oregon. Southern Oregon counties are experiencing chronic financial distress from reduced timber harvests that have led to greatly reduced revenues, and as a result, public services. Cities and counties in Southern Oregon are making difficult and painful cuts in public services. Even before the current recession, Southern Oregon lagged the rest of the state in economic growth and routinely posted unemployment figures higher than the state and national averages.

The Jordan Cove project provides several key opportunities for Southern Oregon:

1. Construction Jobs. Terminal construction is forecasted to create more than 2,600 jobs at peak with an average of more than 900 jobs over three-and-a-half years of construction. The pipeline will employ an additional 800 workers over two years of construction.

- 2. Permanent Jobs. The terminal and pipeline will create 150 permanent jobs with an average annual salary of \$75,000, which is twice the average per capita income in Southern Oregon.
- 3. Local Taxes. Jordan Cove and the Pacific Connector Pipeline will pay \$25-30 million per year in local taxes. Considering the multi-decade projected operations of the Jordan Cove facility, these tax payments would be a large and reliable revenue source for local governments.
- 4. Economic Development. Construction of the Jordan Cove terminal will revitalize the Port of Coos Bay, a naturally deep-water port that is under-utilized. Port facilities will be improved, making the Port of Coos Bay more attractive to importers and exporters. In addition, the Pacific Connector Pipeline will provide connections to the existing natural gas pipeline infrastructure in Southern Oregon thereby increasing the supply of natural gas. This is very important for economic development in our region because Southern Oregon is at the end of the Williams Company and NW Natural pipeline systems and experiences reduced capacity and availability of gas compared to the Portland Metro and Willamette Valley regions. The increased availability of natural gas in Southern Oregon would make the region more competitive in attracting industries that require reliable, large volumes of natural gas. This improvement in natural gas availability will also come at no cost to utility ratepayers because; Pacific Connector's investors will finance the pipeline.

In summary, the Jordan Cove Energy Project and its associated Pacific Connector Pipeline would provide a long-term economic benefit to a region of Oregon that has been suffering from high unemployment and a steady erosion of its traditional natural resource-based industries. It would provide high-wage construction jobs and permanent employment and it would have important spin-off benefits from the improvements made at the Port of Coos Bay and the increased availability of natural gas.

For these reasons, we ask that you approve Jordan Cove Energy Partners, L.P.'s application to export LNG to non-Free Trade Agreement countries.

Sincerely,

Rep. Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg)

Co-Speaker, Oregon House of Representatives

Rep. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay)

Co-Speaker, Oregon House of Representatives

Sen. Joanne Verger (D-Coos Bay)

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Rep. Dennis Richardson (R-Central Point)

Rep. Sal Esquiver (R-Medford)

Rep. Wally Hicks (R-Grants Pass)

Rep. Tim Freeman (R-Roseburg)