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EXC-2012-010622



ANNISE D. PARKER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HOUSTON
TEXAS

December 7, 2012

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

I was pleased to see that the NERA Economic Consulting study on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports released this week concluded that exporting LNG would create significant economic benefits for the United States. As the energy capital of the world, the Houston economy would benefit greatly from increased LNG exports.

The discovery of shale plays in certain parts of our country has changed the energy dynamic in the United States and around the world. With an overabundance of natural gas, energy companies in Houston hope to build new export facilities in the Houston Ship Channel and ship LNG to other countries. Among the jobs that the increased export of LNG will create are jobs related to the construction of export facilities, transportation of natural gas, liquification of natural gas and loading of LNG on ships.

I understand that you have set a schedule for considering public comments on the NERA study. Once the period for comments expires on February 25, I urge you to expeditiously rule on applications to export LNG. During the interim period, I hope that your staff will begin the process of reviewing the applications so that you are poised to make prompt decisions after February 25. Many parts of the country would benefit greatly from the new jobs that will come from expanded exports. We in Houston believe that the export of LNG can be accomplished safely and without causing any impact on the environment. We look forward to continuing our dialogue with you and your staff on these issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

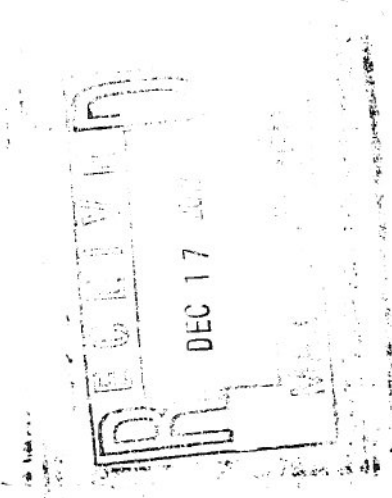
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annise Parker".

Annise D. Parker

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