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From: [Tom Humphries](#)
To: [LNGStudy](#)
Subject: 2012 LNG Export Study
Date: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 8:39:27 AM
Attachments: [LNG Export Study.pdf](#)

Good morning,

Please see the attached letter.

Sincerely,

Tom

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Thomas M. Humphries
PRESIDENT & CEO

January 9, 2013

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Natural Gas Regulatory Activities
Office of Fossil Energies
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Office of Fossil Energies:

The Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber is a business services and economic development organization representing 2,600 members in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties in Ohio, as well as Mercer and Lawrence counties in Pennsylvania. As President & CEO of the Regional Chamber, I want to express my strong support for the NERA 2012 LNG Export Study findings and urge approval of the pending export applications.

The recent NERA Economic Consulting report's findings that "the U.S. would experience net economic benefits from increased LNG exports" and that the "U.S. economic welfare consistently increases as the volume of natural gas exports increased," provides strong support for allowing overseas sales of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The Mahoning Valley has seen significant economic improvements due to shale development. In our area, 1,500 to 2,000 jobs have been created in the last two years connected to the oil and gas supply chain. In addition, much of the \$5 billion in investments received over the last four years have been for oil and gas related activities. I believe that our region will continue to see consistent growth as shale development ramps up in Eastern Ohio. The NERA report noted that LNG exports "provide an opportunity for natural gas producers to realize additional profits." Overseas capital will also help support construction of the facilities needed for LNG exporting, particularly liquefaction plants. This, of course, would directly benefit continued shale development and foster industrial growth as a whole, particularly in manufacturing.

According to the report, overseas sales would also improve our nation's balance of trade and "result in a wealth transfer into the U.S." that would benefit businesses and working people alike. This is a very important plus for exporting proposals, since the trade deficit has been a chronic problem for our country.

Finally, new markets will help curb the "boom or bust" cycle we often see in natural gas drilling. With supply outstripping domestic demand, we are already experiencing a significant decrease in drilling activity. Opening overseas markets will help keep exploration and production efforts up and running, ensuring that our nation has adequate and affordable supplies of this valuable energy resource.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this informative study and the pending export applications.

Sincerely,