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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LNGStudy](#)  
**Subject:** 2012 LNG Export Study  
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Please accept the following comments regarding the 2012 Liquefied Natural Gas Export Study.

My name is Lucas Lentsch, and I'm from Pierre, South Dakota. I write today as a businessman, father, and veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a former Captain with the South Dakota Army National Guard, it was an honor to serve with and command eighty-seven soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Our nation's economy has been through difficult times over the last decade. One bright spot has been energy development throughout the country. We're even seeing it in our own backyard in North Dakota. And while I live in South Dakota, I can tell you that like many other states we are seeing significant economic activity in our state from oil & gas activity occurring in North Dakota. Companies are producing pipeline for production purposes. Transports through our state create constant activity in our service businesses. We even see individuals moving their families into our communities while they commute to jobs over 100 miles away.

I have read with interest the NERA study, and was pleased to see they concluded that "... net economic benefits increased as the level of LNG exports increased." Clearly, exporting LNG is good for America's economy. We also know that increased exports will result in substantial investment in infrastructure projects throughout the nation. This can only serve to help create more jobs, more economic activity, and a strong economy for our country.

Further, as we see more exports and more investment, we will continue to see growth in our production levels. There is and will be plenty of natural gas for both domestic and export needs - knowing that we can increase exports without causing a shortage here makes exports even more attractive economically.

Finally, let me touch on our nation's trade deficit. Over the last 10 years, the US trade deficit has averaged over a half-trillion dollars each year. I have been to the Middle East, and I have seen the wealth created by exports of their energy resources. Exporting our LNG will help us bring in outside wealth to our country, and improve our nation's balance of trade. Additionally, domestic energy production is not only an economic incentive for our country- but every American dollar that stays in North America and not shipped to unstable regions clearly strengthens our security standing. As a veteran and an American - that motivates me to speak out.

Thank you for accepting and reviewing my comments. Please let energy production, and specifically LNG exports, help our economy grow and our country flourish. The NERA 2012 LNG Export Study has concluded that there will be significant benefits to our economy. I respectfully ask that the DOE approve the LNG Export applications currently under consideration.

Respectfully,

Lucas Lentsch  
Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran  
Pierre, South Dakota