

**From:** [Garnet Cantwell](#)  
**To:** [LNGStudy](#)  
**Cc:** [Kate Decker](#)  
**Subject:** COMMENT TO 2012 LNG EXPORT STUDY  
**Date:** Thursday, January 24, 2013 5:43:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [Scanned from a Xerox multifunction device001.pdf](#)

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THANK YOU.



## RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

1701 North Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701  
512/463-7144

BARRY T. SMITHERMAN  
CHAIRMAN

January 24, 2013

Dr. Steven Chu  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

I am writing this letter to express my support for liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporting from the United States, especially the Texas Gulf Coast.

Texas is the leading producer of natural gas in the United States. I currently serve as the Chairman of the Railroad Commission of Texas, the agency which regulates the oil and gas industry in our state. As the Chairman, I can attest to the economic and environmental benefits of the increased use of natural gas. The abundance of now accessible natural gas in Texas, made possible by hydraulic fracturing techniques, has made a significant impact in this state by increasing tax revenues, supplying good paying jobs, and leading the United States to become more energy independent. Natural gas production in Texas is expected to bring in \$2.5 billion in tax revenue in the next two years. As evidenced in the recent DOE report, LNG exporting could have a similar net economic benefit for the entire country.

In addition to adding jobs and improving our own economy, the sales of LNG overseas would help stabilize the often fluctuating gas market. An increase in demand and investment to support exporting can benefit the United States. We have a tremendous supply of recoverable natural gas in the U.S. and increased demand overseas can, in my opinion, be met from this proven abundant supply without dramatically affecting gas prices. Further, LNG is a clean and affordable energy source. The United States has seen lowered carbon dioxide emissions in recent years, due to more reliance upon natural gas. This could be a reality for other countries as well. Also, diversifying our allies' natural gas supplies with U.S. LNG is a critical benefit for U.S. national security interests that can temper the influence of alternative LNG suppliers like Russia and Iran.

I know I join many others in urging you to move forward in granting pending applications for LNG exporting. Thank you for your close attention to this greatly important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry T. Smitherman".