

CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR., MD  
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HUMAN RESOURCES



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0304

January 16, 2013

*Handwritten signature*

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The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary of Energy  
United States Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

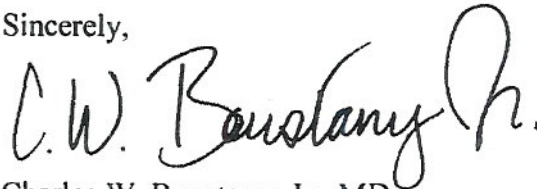
I am writing to express strong support of further developing the Department of Energy's approval process for liquefied natural gas (LNG) export applications. After reviewing the recently released NERA Economic Consulting study, I believe our nation must develop a comprehensive energy plan utilizing all types of American production to create high-paying U.S. jobs and satisfy growing domestic demand. As the country transitions to new types of renewable energy sources in coming years, South Louisiana is well positioned to lead the nation to cleaner fuels with cutting edge technologies being deployed throughout the region. Natural gas is a way to transition from dependence on foreign oil to an efficient energy strategy which utilizes resources here at home.

Some have argued against the exportation of our bountiful natural gas resources. I believe the benefits of exporting LNG far outweigh the costs. Especially when considering global energy security and American foreign interests. LNG exports represent an opportunity for the United States to become a significant player in the global energy sector. Over the last decade, the global marketplace has increased its demand for the supply of LNG, while production of LNG in the U.S. continues to grow and provide domestic surpluses.

The domestic energy industry will not invest in a market without consumer demand. The natural gas industry has done a tremendous job in making the resource more accessible to consumers throughout the U.S. However, halting America's ability to export LNG is counterproductive to fostering the demand that leads to greater investment in America's domestic energy resources. Without investments, natural gas related jobs and manufacturing will stagnate. Unfortunately, any previous economic gains will either decrease or be reversed.

South Louisiana is well positioned to lead the nation in next generation oil and gas technologies, particularly LNG exportation. I am pleased many of my constituents are playing an integral role and helping to lead the way with this exciting development. Because of the transformational potential to significantly increase the U.S. role in global energy production, I hope you will continue to investigate and explore opportunities for LNG exportation. Doing so will encourage investment and development in that industry, while promoting American innovation and competitiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C.W. Boustany Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "Jr." at the end.

Charles W. Boustany, Jr., MD

Member of Congress