

[REDACTED]

From: Darrell Coons [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 5:18 PM
To: LNGStudy
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: 2012 LNG Export Study

To: U.S. Department of Energy

This comment is in regard to the NERA Economic Consulting study. Because of increased gas supplies resulting from hydraulic fracturing of shale gas deposits, many energy companies are making plans to construct port facilities to produce and export liquefied natural gas (LNG). I am writing to oppose the exporting of natural gas that has been extracted in the United States.

Prohibition of natural gas exports makes sense from both environmental and economic standpoints. From an environmental perspective, extraction of natural gas has negative impacts on the local areas where it is extracted. With every gas well that is drilled and operated, pollution of air, land, and water occurs and local environments—plant and animal habitats—are disrupted. These trade-offs may be justified to produce the energy and materials our country needs, but production of more fossil fuels than we need for our own uses is not justified. Producing more than we need in order to export LNG to other countries would have negative environmental impacts in our country, while generating profits only for the companies doing the exporting.

Another significant environmental issue that could be dramatically affected by exporting U.S. natural gas is climate change. Making our energy supplies available to the global market will result in lower prices and increased use worldwide. This effect would come at a time when the burning of fossil fuels needs to be reduced to prevent rising global temperatures and ocean acidification. Also, liquefying and transporting this product would consume much energy, adding to the problem.

Exporting of LNG is also a bad idea from an economic standpoint. As with the environmental issues, exporting of LNG would benefit the exporters, while having negative economic effects on most other users. Having natural gas in plentiful supply in our country is resulting in lower prices for our industries and homes. Manufacturing is returning to the United States because of lower energy prices, particularly in the chemical industry, in which I am employed as a research chemist. Allowing exports would stop this trend and would result in the loss of many manufacturing jobs in the U.S.

We should allow extraction of natural gas in the United States only to the extent that it can be used in our country—for energy generation and as raw materials for chemicals and other products. Extraction at a higher rate for export to other countries would result in great harm to our environment, our economy, and our long-term energy security. The Department of Energy should prohibit exporting of natural gas from the United States because these exports would be not be consistent with the public interest.

Sincerely,

Darrell Coons
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