

[REDACTED]

From: Derek Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 1:22 PM
To: LNGStudy
Subject: 2012 LNG Export Study

To Whom It May Concern:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the matter of natural gas exports. I am writing on behalf of the Colorado Mesa University's Unconventional Energy Center housed within the Redifer Research Institute. Created in 2012 with support from diverse stakeholders in Western Colorado, this Center is focused on supporting the responsible development of unconventional energy resources with targeted applied research and workforce development projects. Naturally, any proposal with the potential to enhance our region's access to markets is critically important to our Center and our region.

We believe that natural gas exports represent a potentially transformative economic opportunity for the United States in general, and northwest Colorado in particular. With our country awash in natural gas reserves – enough to serve an enlarged role in meeting our own energy needs and also those of other nations – policymakers would be short-sighted to adopt policies that restrict the ability of energy producers to market clean, abundant American energy around the world. Liquid natural gas exports are an important first part, and critical step, in the wider gas export conversation that American policy makers should engage in.

Consumers across the United States are benefitting from the incredible technological innovations allowing for the rapid expansion of natural gas from shale deposits. In the last five years, we have increased onshore natural gas production by more than 24 percent. This increase not only provides energy, but domestic jobs. America's Natural Gas Alliance (ANGA) reported the economic impacts of shale gas estimates to be approximately 32,000 total jobs supported throughout the economy for every 1 billion cubic feet per day of shale gas production. Domestically, we not only produce what we need, but LNG exports would provide an opportunity to realize additional profits by selling incremental volumes of natural gas. In a struggling economy, additional investment and jobs at the hands of creating our energy future just cannot be ignored.

While this rapid expansion in the availability of oil and natural gas has been a boon to the American economy at large, a newly-flooded market has devastated more isolated natural gas resource plays like our own in western Colorado. Our region has a glut of gas, but we lack access to markets. Simply put, until new markets emerge, significant new production is not likely to occur. Expanding energy markets around the world is a key, then, for our region's economic health.

Suffice it to say, we agree with the National Economics Research Associates study which showed that under any market scenario, the U.S. was projected to gain net economic benefits from allowing LNG exports. For the Western Slope of Colorado, access to export markets is exactly what we need to reinvigorate industry and boost our local economies. As the NERA study shows, this is true for America too.

As the Unconventional Energy Center at Colorado Mesa University works with community stakeholders and representatives from industry to fulfill its mission in the weeks and months ahead, we intend to engage on this issue in order to spur economic development and job creation in our region. As projects conclude and recommendations emerge, we will keep your agency posted on progress.

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to comment on this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

Derek Wagner, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Colorado Mesa University

████████████████████

Grand Junction, Colorado ██████████

www.coloradomesa.edu/energy