

[REDACTED]

From: Harry Hochheiser [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 9:39 PM
To: LNGStudy
Subject: 2012 LNG Export Study

Dear Secretary Chu and the Department of Energy:

I am extremely concerned that the Department of Energy may move forward in permitting liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports without careful and appropriate examination of the short- and long-term economic, national security, and environmental ramifications.

Economically, this is a questionable move at best. With natural gas prices at a very low point, the need for export is questionable. Furthermore, LNG exports that are based on gas extracted from hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") are likely woefully inadequate if they fail to make appropriate provisions for the economic costs of the increased traffic and environmental degradation that will inevitably be inflicted upon locales where fracking is being conducted.

From a national security standpoint, this move is questionable as well. If the US is truly moving towards greater energy independence, and if natural gas is part of this vision, exports will hinder the move towards energy independence. If this natural gas is so valuable, we should be keeping it at home.

Finally, the environmental impacts must be considered carefully. Construction of natural gas export facilities would involve substantial environmental destruction, but the true costs would likely come from increased fracking. With concern over the impact of fracking on water supplies and other irreplaceable environmental factors, we need to take the time to investigate appropriate practices and to ensure that any fracking that is done is held to the highest environmental standards.

For these reasons, I urge the DOE to deny any requests for LNG exports.

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