

From: James Finley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 9:38 PM
To: LNGStudy
Subject: 2012 LNG Export Study

Dear Secretary Chu,

Now that the Department of Energy (DOE) has released its study on the macroeconomic impacts of U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports, I believe it is imperative that your department quickly approve all pending export applications for non-free trade agreement countries. As you know, the analysis concluded that, "In all the scenarios analyzed in this study, NERA found that the U.S. would experience net economic benefits from increased LNG exports." This conclusion adds to a mountain of recent studies finding that the benefits of exporting LNG would exceed any associated costs.

Granting permit approval for increased U.S. exports of our abundant natural gas resources is an economic winner for the American people. Each project that is built would be a multi-billion dollar private sector investment in the U.S. economy that will create jobs, stimulate economic growth across many sectors including manufacturing, and reduce our trade deficit. Construction and operation of a single new LNG project could create as many as 48,000 new jobs in design, engineering, construction, and operation, which in turn translate into hundreds of millions of dollars in new wages for American workers. Additionally, total local, state, and federal tax revenue created by a single facility could exceed \$4.5 billion over the 30-year lifespan of an LNG export project.

It is also clear that the United States has an abundance of natural gas, which will allow us to seize the opportunity to increase exports while simultaneously increasing domestic use for power generation, manufacturing and transportation. Proven reserves of U.S. natural gas have increased dramatically in recent years, and experts now estimate that the United States has almost 100 years of supply at current levels of consumption. Given this abundance, the recent DOE macroeconomic study indicated that the United States can export gas without significant domestic price impacts, as the exported gas would largely come from increased U.S. gas production, creating more jobs and economic stimulus.

Furthermore, LNG exports are in the geopolitical and environmental interest of the United States. Becoming a reliable global supplier of natural gas will allow us to support our NATO allies in Europe with a stable and reliable source of natural gas, as well as provide needed fuel for our long-time allies in Asia, such as Japan and Korea who depend on LNG imports. Similarly, the global environmental benefits of increased natural gas use cannot be understated. Natural gas emits roughly half the carbon dioxide emissions of coal when burned for electricity, and little to no emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides or particulate matter. The U.S. Energy Information Administration recently determined that we have reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the United States to 1992 levels specifically because of the increased use of natural gas. By exporting LNG, the United States will be providing the world with access to a source of cleaner and reliable energy that can help reduce global GHG emissions.

It is clear that LNG exports to America's trading partners are in the public interest. Pending permit applications for LNG facilities should be approved without delay so we can take advantage of this unique American opportunity to create jobs, boost the economy, and reduce our trade deficit, all while continuing to expand domestic use of this clean-burning source of American energy.

Sincerely,

James Finley

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