

From: Ken Merrifield [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 8:27 AM
To: LNGStudy
Subject: NERA LNG Export Study

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) NERA LNG Export Study. My name is Ken Merrifield, Mayor of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire. I support the results of the Department of Energy NERA LNG Study because exporting natural gas will only serve to boost the economy of both New Hampshire and our nation. Exporting some of America's abundant natural gas to global markets is a major opportunity for the U.S., and generates investment and jobs. The NERA Study concludes that there will be "net economic benefits increased as the level of LNG exports increased."

The NERA study also states, "the average annual increase in revenues from LNG exports ranges from about \$2.6 billion to almost \$32.9 billion". The additional gas production associated with exports would also generate billions of dollars annually in much needed federal and state government revenue. NERA concludes, "GDP also increases as a result of LNG exports. The most dramatic changes are in the short term, when investment in liquefaction capacity adds to export revenues and tolling charges to grow GDP." Additionally, an America's Natural Gas Alliance (ANGA) report on the economic impacts of shale gas estimates approximately 32,000 total jobs are supported throughout the economy for every 1 billion cubic feet per day of shale gas production.

*LNG exports will not only drive additional production, but also support thousands of additional jobs in engineering, manufacturing, construction, and operation of the export infrastructure, as well as others indirectly along the equipment supply chain.

*The report concludes that "the benefits that come from export expansion more than outweigh the losses from reduced capital and wage income to U.S. consumers, and hence LNG exports have net economic benefits in spite of higher natural gas prices. This is exactly the outcome that economic theory describes when barriers to trade are removed."

*The opening of new markets will lead to some increase in the price of domestic natural gas, but NERA found the increases would be modest. The level of increase is likely to be held down by competition between U.S. suppliers and foreign competitors operating in the overseas markets and by buyer resistance.

As Mayor of Franklin, New Hampshire, our city's number one priority is economic growth and I can see the potential that LNG exports will have on the United States. Please consider the positive economic benefits from the DOE NERA LNG Export Study and approve the LNG applications currently under your consideration.

With sincere thanks,

Mayor Ken Merrifield, Franklin NH