

From: foggynote@rushmore.com
To: [LNGStudy](#)
Cc: [LNGStudy](#)
Subject: 2012 LNG Export Study
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Attachments: [LNG_Export.docx](#)

*CITY OF LEAD
Office of the Mayor
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January 23, 2013

To: US Department of Energy

From: Tom Nelson, Mayor of Lead, South Dakota
Past Chairman of the South Dakota Senate Commerce and Energy Committee
Past Vice Chairman of the South Dakota Legislature's Study on Oil and Gas Development

Greetings:

I would like to offer comments on the 2012 LNG Export Study. I support the NERA study and I want to share with you a few reasons why.

I have the unique experience in South Dakota of leading a community that has been dependent and thrived on natural resources for decades. In the case of my community, that resource was gold. I have also been the Chairman of our State Senate's Commerce & Energy Committee and was heavily involved last summer in a study looking at the energy resources we have in South Dakota. I know energy in South Dakota, and I know first-hand the benefits that natural resources can provide to a community and an entire State.

My state, and more specifically my home area of the northern Black Hills, is in a unique position. Just to the north of us in North Dakota, our neighbors are experiencing an energy boom that impacts my community and all of those near me. We are now seeing companies open manufacturing sites in the Black Hills to provide materials to the drillers working in the Bakken. Our traffic counts are higher than ever as people and products pass through our area, visit our businesses, and stay in our hotels. People from North Dakota are buying property and homes in our communities. As you can see, the wealth being created in the Bakken is not only important for them, but it's important for South Dakota as well.

The above references are just a few examples of how energy development is impacting communities in America on a very local level. The economic impact is very real and very good. So when I read recently that the NERA Study was released and concluded that Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports would be good for our economy, I wanted to include my concurrence. It is clear to me that allowing LNG exports will be good for our nation's economy. At this time, it seems to me that we want to encourage growth of this industry and allowing exports simply makes sense. New investment in infrastructure projects will mean new jobs for Americans, and all the additional economic activity that follows will increase our GDP. As the NERA study also says "If this capital originates from sources outside the U.S., it will represent another form of wealth transfer into the U.S." Another thing I've learned as Mayor of Lead is that whether it's gold or tourists, bringing money in from outside our community is a great deal for our community -- it generates economic activity, creates jobs, and even helps fund our government coffers from all the additional tax revenue. I would submit to you that exporting some of our natural resources to other countries is a good deal for our country as well, and at a time when our country needs the economic boost.

Thank you for accepting my comments on this important study. NERA has rightly concluded that the benefits to our economy of allowing LNG exports will be positive, and so I respectfully ask that the Department of Energy approve the LNG Export applications currently under consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Nelson