This provides my comments regarding the upcoming DOE decision on authorization of exporting LNG. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important decision.

The Burghard Group

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Dear Dr. Chu:

Congratulations on the successful completion of your comprehensive study on the economic benefit of exporting liquefied natural gas. And, the NERA Economic Consulting finding that under a wide range of possible scenarios the upside benefit to the national economy is positive and the downside risk limited, is encouraging.

But, the Report fails to call out the additional benefit of helping both the United States and her allies become more energy independent, and as a consequence less susceptible to the pressure of energy diplomacy from nations that do not necessarily have our best interests at heart. Nor does it call out the environmental benefit of shifting energy sourcing from petrochemicals to more environmentally friendly natural gas. I realize both were outside the scope of the commissioned study, but believe are highly relevant in the U.S. Department of Energy assessment of whether to authorize the pending export applications.

I my mind, the three most compelling reasons for authorizing export of LNG are –

1) Strengthen our Nation's economic position.
2) Help reduce the dependency of our allies on foreign oil.
3) Improve the world's environment by shifting sourcing from petrochemicals to more environmentally friendly natural gas.

Rarely does an opportunity to do so much good with such a limited downside risk present itself. Fortunately, such an opportunity is before you today.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments in your deliberation. I look forward to hearing about your decision.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Burghard
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