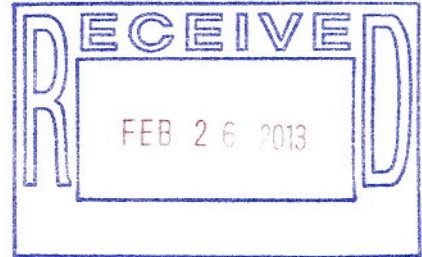


Feb 15, 2013

Neil Ames



Secretary Steven Chu
2012 LNG Export Study
U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34)
Office of Natural Gas Regulatory Activities
Office of Fossil Energy
P.O. Box 44375
Washington, DC 20026-4375

Dear Secretary Chu,

When the housing market went down, there went the jobs in my area. After forty years as a contractor, I fully understand how tourism and the vacation homes it creates are vital to Maine's economy. With tourism and housing stagnant or dwindling, we need to look at other ways to make and sustain jobs, both here and across the country. Exporting our surplus natural gas would do just that.

At one time, eight miles away from me as the crow flies in Wiscasset, there was a nuclear plant. When it shut down, it laid off around 600 people, a job loss that could have been avoided if the energy industry had more support. With all the over-regulation that they face, however, I'm surprised they are able to do as well as they are doing. Allowing them to further prosper will only serve to benefit our entire nation.

In the 1970s, people started asking where all the hippies went. I have the answer: They became environmentalists attempting to halt this country's production under the guise of protecting nature. Obviously, their lobby has seen that Congressman Markey provide a written opinion to that effect in opposition to the initiative to export natural gas. His stance does not have America's best interests at heart. I hope you recognize this fact, do what is best for all of us, and agree to export liquefied natural gas.

Best,

Neil Ames