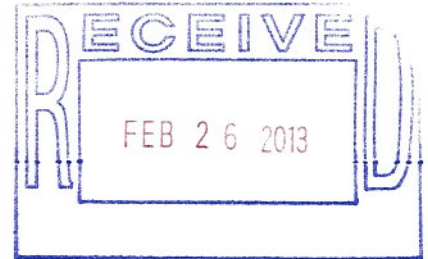


Kent Gearing

02/12/2013

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-

Our area used to be much more prosperous than it is now. When I moved here 20 years ago, we had stockyards, lumbering, many upscale retailers, and a higher quality of work. These days, it's hard to find a decent job or a retailer that sells American-made goods. These changes have turned us into the poorest county in the area. We need to take every measure we can to reduce our dependence on foreign products and goods, while still bringing industry jobs back.

One way in which we can somewhat balance out our trade deficit is to begin exporting our natural gas to other countries. Since we now have the ability to produce more of it than before, the wisest and most profitable thing to do is to export the surplus. Even though I know that this project will benefit America, there are people like Massachusetts Congressman Ed Markey who are trying to slow its development.

As long as we can handle things like fracking and exportation in an environmentally safe manner, I see no reason why we shouldn't use it for our own benefit as a nation. We desperately need the skilled higher paying jobs that this industry can bring. The most important thing is that we allow this natural gas exportation to happen regardless of the opposition it may face.

Thank you for your help,

Kent Gearing
Kent Gearing