Dear Secretary Chu,

First, thank you for your service to our country. As one public servant to another, I appreciate the work you do.

I have attached to this email a letter I wrote and signed urging your support of LNG Exports. I humbly ask that you read it and consider my opinions when it comes time for you to take action on this matter.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I appreciate it.

Sincerely,

**Ried Holien** 

State Senator, District 5

Watertown, SD

February 20, 2013

The Honorable Steven Chu Secretary, US Department of Energy 1000 Independence Ave, SW Washington, DC 20585

Re: 2012 LNG Export Study

Dear Secretary Chu:

Please accept my comments today in response to those made by a number of officials during the initial comment period. My comments are in response to those made specifically by Senator Lisa Murkowski and Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe.

It is my honor and privilege to serve as the Chairman of the Commerce and Energy Committee for the South Dakota Senate. South Dakota has been blessed with some natural resources and we are anticipating and hoping for further development in the Western part of our state in future years. We have also been firsthand eyewitnesses to the growth in energy development in North Dakota, which has resulted in thousands of new jobs, a growth in the regional economy, and a creation of wealth our part of the country has never seen before. There are certainly challenges we face as government officials when this type of growth occurs in such a short time, but we face those challenges together and work on solutions together.

I want to go on record supporting the comments offered by Senator Murkowski and Governor Beebe regarding the net economic benefits of LNG exports. We know both anecdotally and factually in our own region, that energy production and exportation is good for the economy. We also now know through the NERA study, that LNG exports will create thousands of new jobs, result in billions of dollars of investment in our country, and overall growth in our nation's GDP. Putting people back to work and investing in our country is a noble goal and this is one step in achieving that goal. Bringing in wealth from outside the country simply makes sense as we work to build our country and grow our nation's economy.

Thank you for allowing me to respond to some of the initial comments. I hope you will approve LNG exports for the good of our country and our people.

Sincerely, Senator Ried Holien

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Chairman, South Dakota Senate Commerce & Energy Committee