

LNGStudy

From: Roberts, Tommy [troberts@fmtn.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 2:55 PM
To: LNGStudy
Subject: 2012 LNG Export Study

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Tommy Roberts and I am the Mayor of Farmington, New Mexico.

I write this in support of the findings of the Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) Export Study conducted by NERA Economic Consulting.

Farmington has a population of approximately 46,000 people and is located in the extreme Northwest corner of the State of New Mexico.

The San Juan Basin, a geologic structure that encompasses tens of thousands of acres of land in Northwest New Mexico and Southwest Colorado, is one of the most abundant repositories of natural gas in the United States. Consequently, the economy of Farmington and the surrounding area has been intrinsically tied to the natural gas industry for the better part of the last seventy to eighty years.

Currently, and for the last four to five years, the natural gas industry in this area has experienced a significant decline in activity. This decline is the result of decreasing commodity prices for natural gas -- due in large part to the glut of domestic natural gas supplies resulting from very aggressive drilling and production programs in other parts of the country where natural gas from shale formations is the target -- and hostile Federal and State regulatory environments. The resulting impact on the local economy has been, and continues to be, dramatic. The area has experienced significant job losses -- with the attendant loss of buying power that fuels local economies -- and reduction in tax base.

It is my opinion that a comprehensive domestic energy policy should include a component that recognizes the abundance of natural gas reserves in this country that, if allowed to be economically produced, could serve the domestic needs of its citizens and some of the demand that exists outside the United States. It is this belief that forms the basis for my support of an aggressive program to identify foreign demand for natural gas and associated products and to put into place the policies and mechanisms that will facilitate the production of domestic natural gas reserves and the opportunity to export liquified natural gas to help meet that demand. In my opinion, such a program would, in fact, result in increased demand, increased production, the creation of high paying jobs, and substantial improvement in the economic health of those communities that are fortunate enough to have these natural resources at hand.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important study.

Tommy Roberts
Mayor of Farmington, New Mexico