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**From:** [David Kaminski](#)  
**To:** [LNGStudy](#)  
**Cc:** [Saunier, Dennis P.](#)  
**Subject:** 2012 LNG Export Study  
**Date:** Friday, January 11, 2013 9:30:03 AM

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Dr. Steven Chu,

U.S. Secretary of Energy

Dear Dr. Chu:

The 1,600-member Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce in Canton, Ohio, provides support to the natural gas industry and to the companies exploring the Utica Shale formation in Ohio. The “shale gas revolution” has provided a new and abundant source of this clean and economical fuel. We believe it is important for the natural gas industry to remain robust and productive, not only for our own member businesses and their employees, but also for the entire state of Ohio and for the whole country. The recent NERA Economic Consulting report commissioned by the Department of Energy provides strong support for allowing overseas sales of liquefied natural gas (LNG). This will help keep the industry strong and benefit the whole economy.

We were pleased that the report found, under all the scenarios it analyzed, “the U.S. would experience net economic benefits from increased LNG exports” and that “across the scenarios, U.S. economic welfare consistently increases as the volume of natural gas exports increased.” The report noted that “U.S. LNG exports provide an opportunity for natural gas producers to realize additional profits” by selling gas in overseas markets.

This, of course, would directly benefit many of our members businesses. But the positive effects extend well beyond natural gas producers and supply chain firms, and in fact well beyond Ohio. According to the report, overseas sales would improve our balance of trade and “result in a wealth transfer into the U.S.” This is an important plus for exporting proposals, since the trade deficit has been a chronic problem for our country. And, as the report notes, overseas capital will help support construction of the facilities needed for LNG exporting, particularly liquefaction plants. This would also increase the “wealth transfer” into our country, and benefit businesses, working people and the economy in general.

New markets for this resource will help curb the “boom or bust” cycle we often see in natural gas drilling. With supply outstripping domestic demand, we are already experiencing a significant decrease in drilling activity. Opening overseas markets will help keep exploration and production efforts up and running. That will support our business, but it will also help ensure that our nation has adequate and affordable supplies of this valuable energy resource.

We support the NERA report’s findings and urge approval of the pending export applications.

Sincerely,

Dennis P. Saunier

President and CEO

Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

Submitted for Mr. Saunier by:

David Kaminski

Director of Energy and Public Affairs

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