

Moore, Larine

From: Shawn Good [sgood@pachamber.org]
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2013 3:34 PM
To: LNGStudy
Subject: PA Chamber Comments; 2012 LNG Export Study; Docket Number: 2012-29894 (77 FR 73627)
Attachments: Obama letter on LNG exporting - 1.7.13.pdf; PA Chamber Letter to Secretary Chu, LNG Exporting (January 14, 2013).pdf

Dear Dr. Steven Chu:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, attached are comments regarding the 2012 LNG Export Study. I have also attached for your review a letter that the PA Chamber submitted to President Obama regarding this study.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please let me know.

Thank you,

Shawn Good
Director of Government Affairs
PA Chamber of Business and Industry
417 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
sgood@pachamber.org
717-720-5443 (office)
717-645-2071 (cell)



417 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1902
717 255-3252 / 800 225-7224
FAX 717 255-3298
www.pachamber.org

RECEIVED

By Docket Room at 11:26 am, Jan 14, 2013

January 14, 2013

The Honorable Dr. Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20585

RE: 2012 LNG Export Study; Docket Number: 2012-29894 (77 FR 73627)

Dear Secretary Chu:

The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry generally supports the findings of the NERA Economic Consulting study on the impacts of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporting. We commend the Department of Energy for commissioning this study and believe it provides strong grounds for approval of the pending applications for overseas LNG sales.

Businesses throughout Pennsylvania have benefitted tremendously from the recent “shale gas revolution,” certainly one of the most important energy developments in decades. New natural gas supplies from the Marcellus and Utica formations have provided a valuable source of good-paying jobs and business income, not to mention clean, abundant and affordable energy. The NERA report clearly found that allowing overseas sales of LNG would further strengthen the natural gas industry and our nation’s economy. These valuable benefits cannot be overlooked, especially during a time of fragile economic recovery.

The report noted that, across all the scenarios it examined, “the U.S. was projected to gain net economic benefits from allowing LNG exports. Moreover, for every one of the market scenarios examined, net economic benefits increased as LNG exports increased.”

These benefits will extend far beyond Pennsylvania. For example, the NERA report noted that exports “will improve the U.S. balance of trade.” They would also promote a “wealth transfer” into this country, as foreign capital would help support construction of infrastructure such as liquefaction plants needed for exports.

Allowing these sales will also go a long way to dampen the “boom or bust” phenomenon that has marked natural gas exploration and production. It would provide a new outlet for domestic production and prevent dramatic downturns in drilling when domestic supply outstrips demand. This will help keep natural gas available and affordable for homes, businesses and power plants, in Pennsylvania and throughout our nation.

2012 LNG Export Study

January 14, 2013

Page 2

The NERA report confirms our strong belief that LNG exporting will be good for the families and businesses of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In light of these findings, we respectfully urge the Department to approve the pending export applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Barr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gene" and the last name "Barr" clearly distinguishable.

Gene Barr
President and CEO

Enclosure

RECEIVED

By Docket Room at 11:26 am, Jan 14, 2013



417 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1902
717 255-3252 / 800 225-7224
FAX 717 255-3298
www.pachamber.org

January 7, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) presents a significant opportunity for our country. Many states and regions are now enjoying the benefits of their own natural gas production, and thanks to technological advances, the United States has enough natural gas to meet American consumer demand.

However, natural gas production is outpacing demand and the surplus of natural gas has depressed prices for producers, making drilling operations unprofitable. As a result, the number of rigs drilling for natural gas today is at its lowest point in 16 years. In Pennsylvania, the number of drill rigs boring wells dropped from 115 to 70 rigs in one year. In Bradford County, Pennsylvania, which has more Marcellus Shale wells than anywhere else in the state, only 14 wells were drilled this June, compared to 45 in June of 2011.

Selling LNG into the global marketplace is not only necessary for businesses, but would create more American jobs, increase demand, and spur more production without significantly impacting domestic prices.

The natural gas industry is helping reverse economic downturns in many regions of the country and could continue to revive once declining industries. According to the U.S. International Trade Administration, each \$1 billion of exports will result in more than 6,000 new jobs. These jobs would be at LNG facilities and throughout the value chain, including the steel industry, turbine manufacturing, construction and more. Additionally, each LNG export terminal will generate millions of dollars in new tax revenue for the federal, state and local governments.

In addition to producing significant economic benefits here at home, LNG exporting will have a significant positive impact on the U.S. trade balance. Selling natural gas could help countries coping with serious energy challenges diversify their natural gas supplies and allow more money to flow into the United States. Furthermore, because natural gas produces less carbon dioxide emissions than other fossil fuels when burned for electricity, by exporting LNG, the United States will be providing the world with increased access to a cleaner source of energy.

President Barack Obama

January 7, 2013

Page Two

I urge you to take the steps necessary to expedite the approval process for the export of LNG. Building the energy infrastructure necessary to allow market-based exports of liquefied natural gas will not only add stability to the energy production cycle in our region, it will create more American jobs, help reverse economic downturns, and continue reviving once declining industries.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Barr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gene" and the last name "Barr" clearly distinguishable.

Gene Barr
President and CEO