

**From:** [Carissa Richter](#)  
**To:** [LNGStudy](#)  
**Subject:** 2012 LNG Export Study  
**Date:** Thursday, January 24, 2013 5:07:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [2012 LNG Export Study 1-24-13.docx.pdf](#)

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January 24, 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 Greater North Dakota Chamber 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 North Dakota have benefitted tremendously from the recent “shale gas revolution,” certainly one of the most important energy developments in decades. New natural gas supplies 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 North Dakota. 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 North Dakota and throughout our nation.

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

Sincerely,



Andy Peterson  
President & CEO

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