

From: [Kathryn Baskin](#)
To: [LNGStudy](#)
Cc: [Kenneth Nemeth](#); chris.champion@governor.ms.gov
Subject: Comments from Governor Phil Bryant on LNG Study Attached
Date: Thursday, January 24, 2013 4:57:45 PM
Attachments: [Gov. Bryant MS.PDF](#)

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Please find attached comments submitted by Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, Chairman of the Southern States Energy Board. The Southern States Energy is an interstate compact among 16 southern states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Board's mission is to enhance economic development and the quality of life in the South through innovations in energy and environmental policies, programs and technologies. Members of the Board include the Governor of each jurisdiction and a member of both houses in each state. The President appoints a federal representative to serve at his pleasure.

Please accept these comments for the record.

Respectfully,

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January 24, 2013

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary, Department of Energy

Comments regarding the **2012 LNG Export Study**

Dear Secretary Chu:

As Chair of the Southern States Energy Board, I am submitting the following in response to the Federal Register Notice soliciting comments on the study of macroeconomic impacts of LNG exports from the United States. The Southern States Energy Board is an interstate compact organization created in 1960 and established under Public Laws 87-563 and 92-440. The Board's mission is to enhance economic development and the quality of life in the South through innovations in energy and environmental policies, programs and technologies. Our members include the governor and two legislators from each of sixteen southern states and two territories.

The LNG Export Study makes a very important contribution to the development of sound national policy in the matter of LNG exports and underscores the need to enable access of domestically produced natural gas to the international energy market. In particular the study shows that LNG sales into the global market will produce net economic benefits in the United States.

This study was performed by NERA, an established and highly regarded econometric firm with an impressive list of clients and a reputation for objectivity. The quality of the present study clearly reflects the usual high standards of work performed by NERA. The study examined economic impacts under a number of variables, including both high and low levels of energy demand, natural gas production and daily export volumes. Significantly, the results showed that "in all of the scenarios analyzed, the United States would experience net economic benefits from increased LNG exports." Furthermore the study found that "across the scenarios, U.S. economic welfare consistently increases as the volume of natural gas exports increased."

Expansion of LNG sales to foreign customers will help stabilize the domestic market and enhance investment in development of indigenous gas resources for gas production and processing. This will increase economic development in this field and ultimately benefit domestic consumers. The report points out that by providing another outlet for sales of natural gas, the domestic production, transmission and processing of natural gas can be better managed.

Since we are in the fortunate position of having supplies of natural gas being more than sufficient to meet internal needs, access to export markets should be allowed in order to benefit from the revenues that would result.

The foreign policy attributes of LNG exports should not be overlooked. Serving the foreign market for LNG provides a low carbon fuel to the importing country and strengthens the leverage of the U.S. in world energy markets. Increased stabilization of world energy supplies will help reduce price volatility and associated unrest. Moreover the report finds that revenues from export sales of LNG will bring wealth into the United States. This will begin to provide a needed counter to the flow of U.S. dollars into foreign sources of oil and improves our balance of trade.

The overall findings of the LNG Export Study clearly show that there will be multiple benefits to expansion of this opportunity to serve the international energy market and, therefore, terminal expansion is clearly justified. In light of these findings, I respectfully urge that approval proceed for pending permits for LNG export projects so that these benefits can begin to materialize as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Southern States Energy Board, we appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments and respectfully request they be included in the public record of this proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Bryant". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Governor Phil Bryant,
Governor of Mississippi
Chair, Southern States Energy Board

cc: Kenneth Nemeth, Executive Director, Southern States Energy Board