

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 7, 2012

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

We write today to respectfully request that you take the steps necessary to expedite the approval process for the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG). We believe that now is the time to pursue this option for the following reasons.

Our states have a long and proud history in the production of oil and natural gas as well as other products refined or manufactured from these fuels. As such, for many years our region has provided energy to much of the rest of the country via significant pipeline infrastructure. While this is still true, increased shale production in certain parts of the country require us all to think a little differently about this opportunity and about the need to allow producing areas the ability to seek international customers for a portion of their production.

With the discovery of vast shale plays in certain parts of our country, many states and regions are now enjoying the benefits of their own natural gas production. This has meant large portions of the country which were previously served by our region via pipeline now have a closer commodity at hand. As such, without the ability to market to international customers, this could have a severe impact on production in our states.

Although not as widely reported as developments in the Marcellus play, the shale revolution has also increased production in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. In fact, data included in the Department of Energy's 2011 report, *Review of Emerging Resources, US Shale Gas and Shale Oil Plays*, describes more than 232 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable gas in these plays. Additional data suggests that production and reserves are likely to be much higher. This surplus of natural gas has produced very low prices for producers and an absence of market opportunities for natural gas, leading to many wells just being shut in.

This is why our region and our country need an outlet for natural gas production. 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 allow our area to quickly adapt to the new dynamics of gas production and marketing.

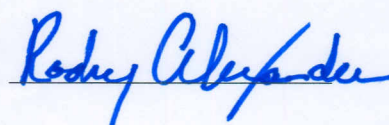
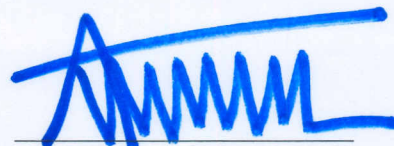
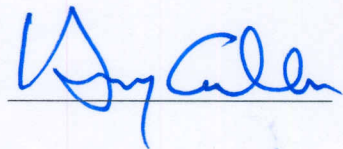
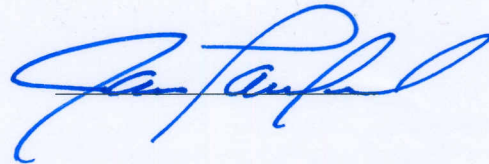
We are grateful the Department has started to review and issue licenses for the export of natural gas. We also are aware of the pending study awaiting publication by the Department on the impact of allowing additional natural gas exports beyond those already allowed between our neighbors in Canada and Mexico. However, the process does not seem to have a set timeline for decisions or a sense of urgency. In our collective view, it is time to bring a renewed sense of urgency to the approval process.

The construction of a LNG export terminal – even one previously permitted and built for import – will require thousands of jobs and billions in investment. These investments cannot be made or fully supported without predictable timelines for decision making by the Department. There are active applications that could directly and significantly add thousands of temporary construction jobs along with permanent operational and production jobs in our states. These export terminals could also help balance our trade deficit and importantly provide additional stability to natural gas pricing. We strongly support your Department taking coherent and timely action to move this process forward.

In closing, we have watched as Canada and Australia are aggressively developing their LNG export plans with the encouragement of each of their governments. In fact, it is estimated that more than 2 percent of GDP in Australia will be tied to LNG exports after 2016, and its Central Bank believes that all the construction and investment currently at work in Australia in just this sector “may overheat” the economy.

That is why we respectfully encourage you to facilitate the approval of these facilities as quickly as possible. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance to you on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Rubin Honeyza

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Al Green

~~Zaini Pany~~

Shirley Jackson

Ron Paul

Cal Johnson

William J

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3/7/8

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Frank D. Lucas

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John Culberson

Jed Amundson

John Carter

Pete Fourn

Rick Crawford

Jim [unclear]

Sam Womack

Mac [unclear]

Ray [unclear]

Al [unclear]

Sam [unclear]

Sec. Chu LNG Letter Signatories

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