

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Chu:

As representatives from western states, we have been watching closely the policy debate and recent actions to open up opportunities to sell liquefied natural gas (LNG) in overseas markets. Like our colleagues from the Marcellus and Utica natural gas plays and Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas who wrote to you recently on this matter, we were pleased to see the approval of the export terminal at Sabine Pass in Louisiana. We strongly urge you to avoid any delays in the approval process for pending projects and ask for renewed urgency in completing the macroeconomic study at the Department of Energy (DOE).

America's energy future has changed significantly in the last five years presenting huge economic opportunities we could not have imagined a decade ago. Today, the abundance of U.S. natural gas – which has nearly doubled in a 10-year period and will continue to grow with increasing technological advances – has been substantiated time and again by government sources, including the Energy Information Administration (EIA), as well as academia and private sector analysis.

Creating more opportunities to sell natural gas into global markets and access overseas customers could help the goals of increasing natural gas use and smooth out historical boom-bust cycles. Realizing sustainable natural gas prices will continue to stimulate the resurgence of U.S. manufacturing, power generation, chemical and agricultural sectors, as well as continue to keep costs low to heat our homes and fuel our nation's transportation needs. And allowing natural gas – like other U.S. commodities – to have the opportunity to sell its product on the worldwide market will create new jobs and help balance our trade deficit.

We urge you to move forward on approval of the current report on which DOE is working as well as the pending LNG export applications. Thank you for your attention and consideration of this critical matter. Our energy future and economy is too important to allow this opportunity to pass.

Sincerely,



Ken Joder

Cynthia M. Lummis

Mike V. Anderson

Ed Sullivan

Stuart Pearce

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Sam R. Tipton

Ed [unclear]

Mike Atman

Steve Chaffetz

Lee Terry

Paula Gosar

Mel [unclear]