

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



December 10, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Earlier this year, you announced a bold vision for doubling U.S. exports over the next five years, the National Export Initiative. We agree with this goal and the benefit that increased exports will have in supporting American jobs across multiple sectors. Given your Administration's initiative, we would like to draw your attention to a potential new export that can support global emissions reductions, diversity energy security for our trading partners, and support thousands of natural gas production jobs in the United States.

The recent development and discovery of significant new natural gas resources across the country presents a unique opportunity for the United States. Over the last five years, the discovery of new conventional and non-conventional natural gas reserves has dramatically improved the natural gas supply picture in America. The United States is now one of the largest global producers of natural gas and home to some of the largest reserves in the world.

However, in the lower 48 states our abundant natural gas resources cannot currently reach export markets beyond the pipelines that move gas bi-directionally between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. In recent months, we have become aware that Cheniere Energy, which has the largest liquefied natural gas receiving terminal in the United States, is seeking approval to convert their facility from an import-only to a bi-directional site via additional investment in liquefaction technology. This investment will allow gas to be condensed into a liquid and transported via ship to our global trading partners. A similar facility has been in operation for four decades in Alaska, but no such "export-ready" facility currently exists on the pipeline network in the lower 48 states.

This new investment will allow a very small percentage of America's natural gas to be exported to foreign markets which will create or sustain 30,000-50,000 production jobs, 1,800 construction jobs, all while providing additional energy security to our allies. Most importantly, this one project has the possibility of improving, through a direct increase in exports, the U.S. trade balance by \$5 to \$7 billion annually.

We are hopeful that you will consider this unique opportunity to create jobs, improve our trade balance and promote your National Export Initiative. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Boren
Member of Congress

Charles Boustany
Member of Congress

James Inhofe
United States Senator

Mary Landrieu
United States Senator

Bill Cassidy

Elena GT Thompson

Tom Cole

Gene Ham

David Vitter

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