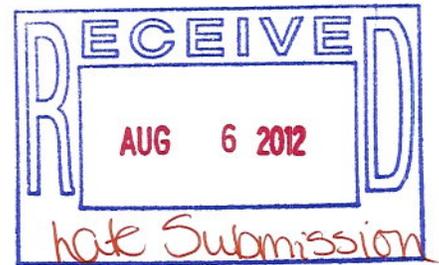


From: [Sandy](#)
To: [FERGAS](#)
Cc: "John Knutson"
Subject: FE Docket No. 12-32-LNG
Date: Monday, August 06, 2012 6:05:42 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)



August 6, 2012

U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34)
Attn: Larine Moore and Marc Talbert
Office of Natural Gas Regulatory Activities, Office of Fossil Energy
P.O. Box 44375
Washington, DC 20026-4375

Via email: fergas@hq.doe.gov

Re: FE Docket No. 12-32-LNG

Dear Mr. Talbert & Ms. Moore:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment on the proposed Jordan Cove Energy Project to export liquid natural gas from the United State via the Oregon's International Port of Coos Bay.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Directors and membership of the South Coast Development Council, Inc. in Coos Bay, Oregon. Our organization is a public/private regional non-profit economic development partnership, whose members include corporate leaders, municipalities and partner organizations throughout the South Coast of Oregon.

We are writing in support of the referenced FE Docket No. 12-32-LNG JCEP permit. This project, along with the associated Pacific Connector Pipeline, is of vital importance to everyone in this region.

Allow me to explain –

Our region, the South Coast of Oregon, has been economically challenged for over 30 years. Our schools, infrastructure, families and quality of life have suffered significantly in this time period. The demise of our historical timber industry -- largely due to the ban on cutting timber on federal lands -- has left the Port of Coos Bay -- the single biggest asset for economic opportunity on the South Coast -- underutilized for decades; and opportunities for the future of the Coast have stagnated.

The socio-economic results are staggering –

Coos County population has remained flat for over ten years.

Coos County wages have remained flat for over ten years.

The median household income is \$12,000 below the Oregon average of \$50,000.

Our unemployment rate hovers near 13% -- far higher than that of the rest of the state and the nation. In fact, our unemployment rate has averaged 150% higher than the national average for the last decade.

50% of our children are from low-income families.

Nearly 500 students in Coos County (pop. 63,000) are homeless on any day.

30% of 8th graders and 34% of 11th graders reported having consumed beer, wine

or liquor in the past 30 days. 61.5% of Coos County 11th grade females report that

they have had sexual intercourse.

Our population is a dramatically aged one, with our young people moving away to find jobs for over 30 years.

Over 50% of our children now qualify for federally funded meals in school. We have the highest level of drug abuse in the state.

Our unemployment rate is 40% higher than the national average, and Oregon has been among the top 10 states with the highest unemployment rate in the U.S. since September, 2008.

Our county – like three others surrounding us – are on the verge of bankruptcy – unable to pay for mandated services.

JCEP, when built, will increase the taxable asset base of Coos County by more than \$6 billion -- one and one half times its current level. While enterprise zones and other property tax incentives will defer some benefits to schools, public safety and county governments, they will benefit immediately -- by treaty with JCEP, bringing in an additional \$25 - \$30 million per year to support these institutions.

The JCEP will provide many benefits both locally and nationally. Regionally, **it is \$6 billion dollars of private investment in infrastructure improvements** that will establish the Port of Coos Bay as a major maritime shipping port for the transportation of bulk commodities to the Asian markets from the U.S. Locally, it will provide a huge boost to the economy through the construction phase; but more importantly, it will provide meaningful, well-paying direct jobs for hundreds of people in the operations phase. In a speech immediately upon taking office, Oregon Governor Kitzhaber said, *"Fifteen jobs in Coos Bay are the equivalent of 500 in Portland."* He is right. In a county with a population of only 63,000 -- half of which are over 55 – these jobs are significant.

Nationally, the benefits of this project are straight forward. The United States can become an exporter of the cleanest hydrocarbon fuel available. The more we encourage the world to use natural gas in place of other hydrocarbon based fuels, the better off our earth is.

Because of this project's vital importance to both our region and our nation we urge you approve the application now before you; and allow the JCEP project to go forward. The sooner, the better – for our region, our state and our country.

Respectfully,

Sandra Geiser-Messerle

Sandra Geiser-Messerle

Executive Director

Phone: 541-266-9753

Fax: 541-267-2753

Cell: 541-297-1220

Email: sandy@scdcinc.org

