January 17, 2013

Department of Energy

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) NERA LNG Export Study. My name is Ben Frederick and I serve as mayor of the City of Owosso, Michigan. I support the results of the Department of Energy NERA LNG Study because exporting natural gas will only serve to boost the economy of both Mid-Michigan and our nation.

The United States, including the state of Michigan, has rich stores of natural gas, whose development is already providing significant economic benefits.

Exporting some of America’s abundant natural gas to global markets is a major opportunity for the U.S., and generates investment and jobs. The NERA Study concludes that there will be “net economic benefits increased as the level of LNG exports increased.”

The NERA study also states, “the average annual increase in revenues from LNG exports ranges from about $2.6 billion to almost $32.9 billion”. The additional gas production associated with exports would also generate billions of dollars annually in much needed federal and state government revenue.

NERA concludes, “GDP also increases as a result of LNG exports. The most dramatic changes are in the short term, when investment in liquefaction capacity adds to export revenues and tolling charges to grow GDP.” Additionally, an America’s Natural Gas Alliance (ANGA) report on the economic impacts of shale gas estimates approximately 32,000 total jobs are supported throughout the economy for every 1
billion cubic feet per day of shale gas production. These are jobs I want to see made possible in Michigan.

LNG exports will not only drive additional production, but also support thousands of additional jobs in engineering, manufacturing, construction, and operation of the export infrastructure, as well as others indirectly along the equipment supply chain. Owosso is well placed to provide the skilled workers necessary for such positions.

Please consider the positive economic benefits from the DOE NERA LNG Export Study and approve the LNG applications currently under your consideration.

Sincerely,

Benjamin R. Frederick
Mayor
Department of Energy

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