Commenting on DOE's 2012 LNG Export Study

DOE's report uses the outdated EIA 2011 Annual Energy Outlook, which does not account for increases and projected growth of manufacturing over the last two years. The report calls the U.S. manufacturing sector a "modest consumer of natural gas" even though manufacturing is the largest overall user of natural gas, at roughly 40 percent. The value-added to natural gas through manufacturing far outstrips the benefits of exporting the raw product. The manufacturing process can multiply the energy value by as much as 20 times from the production of high value products. Think of it as exporting lumber vs. exporting a wooden bench. One thing the report does get right is that industries such as fertilizer, steel, and chemicals are the most likely to feel the impact of increased natural gas exports. When so much of our economic growth and low utility bills for homeowners depend on natural gas, unfettered exports are the wrong choice for consumers and American jobs.

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