United States Department of Energy

LNG Export Study

Dear Madam or Sir:

As a retired United States Navy Officer, I would like to issue this response to the request for comments on the Department of Energy Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Export Study.

I read with great interest the 2012 LNG Export Study and was pleased to see that the U.S. is projected to have a net gain in economic benefits if LNG exports are allowed. As a veteran, I am deeply concerned about the economy both nationally and here in my home state of Indiana.

We need these types of exports to generate more jobs and help our economy grow. Approval of these exports will attract more capital to help with domestic energy infrastructure projects such as construction of the liquefaction facilities needed to convert gas into LNG. These infrastructure projects will translate into jobs for more Americans and hopefully our military veterans will land their fair share of these jobs.

LNG exports will naturally provide more jobs through increased production, but according to the study, we will also see thousands of new jobs in construction, manufacturing, and engineering. These are the kind of high paying jobs for which our veterans are well suited.

According to recent data Indiana is shown to have potential as a producer of shale oil/gas. Projections indicate that by 2035 Indiana would potentially have over 33,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs as a result of shale oil/gas activity and generate an estimated $721 million in government revenue. It is also important to look at the supply chain for this activity. Indiana companies supply Hydraulic fracturing operations with steel for drill casings, chemicals for the fracturing fluid and trucks to move the fluid and silica sand and the natural gas. It is my belief that if LNG is approved these businesses would provide job growth opportunities for our veterans. This is supported by an America’s Natural Gas Alliance report estimating that 32,000 total jobs are supported throughout the economy for every 1 billion cubic feet per day of shale gas production.
In closing, I would like to thank you for reviewing my comments and respectfully request that you approve the applications for LNG exports.

Sincerely,

Michael Wherry

Lt. United States Navy (Retired)

Greenfield, Indiana