January 21, 2013

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu,

It is an honor, as a citizen of the State of Oregon, to have our U.S. Senator, Ron Wyden, express so eloquently the concerns many of us have about the possibility of allowing the exportation of LNG. Senator Wyden has made credible, well-studied comments which I support fully.

From my perspective, we are living in a time where “business as usual” is no longer an appropriate manner in which to make energy-related choices. This planet is a finite place. It has finite resources. We have already used the majority of the easily-accessible, inexpensive-to-process, fossil fuel caches on the planet.

From this point forward, deep thought and consideration are required to choose paths of resource extraction and consumption that absolutely minimize adverse environmental impacts and take into consideration the amount of energy necessary to get a resource to the end user.

Exporting LNG at this time is going in the wrong direction:

- Let’s carefully extract and wisely consume our domestic supply of natural gas here.
- Exporting our natural gas makes U.S. citizens compete on the world-market for energy. It is already known that Japan, China and many other Asian nations pay far more for natural gas than we do. DOMESTICALLY, WE WILL BE ADVERSELY IMPACTED ECONOMICALLY BY HAVING TO COMPETE WITH THE WORLD-MARKET’S LNG/NATURAL GAS PRICES.
- Using our domestic natural gas (a valuable, finite, energy source) to create and export LNG, shipping it half way across the planet in ships that consume even more energy, only to insure that our domestic natural gas prices increase has no benefit to the US homeowners and businesses. WE NEED TO KEEP OUR ENERGY HERE.
I, personally, do not want a high-pressure, natural gas pipeline running through my property, destroying its value, so investors and energy speculators can get rich.

Please rethink the consequences of the exporting of LNG from this country. It is not an energy “fix.” It is merely another scandalous policy that benefits a few at the expense of the many.

Sincerely,
Patricia Spady