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February 25, 2013

The Honorable Dr. Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

2012 LNG Export Study

Dear Secretary Chu,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I would like to discuss the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and reply to others' comments about the 2012 LNG Export Study. LNG exports are a critical issue to Colorado, and our Governor and the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry have both taken a firm stand in support of the exports. I agree with their stance and also support exporting LNG.

The governors of Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas recently submitted a joint letter to your agency. In it, they stated that they recognize the economic benefits that will result from exporting LNG, such as job growth, increased investments, and surges in GDP. The governors also say in reference to LNG exports that "the opportunity could be greater and the impact more far-reaching." As you can see, local governors believe exporting LNG could create a free and open marketplace for U.S. energy supplies and thus increase domestic energy security. They also commented that, "...enabling global markets to access U.S. natural gas supplies will help restore transparency to what has become an artificially depressed and geographically restrained marketplace." I agree with their comments.

Recently, natural gas prices have fallen because supply has outpaced demand and because supplies cannot be sold globally. If LNG were exported, prices would rise and trade would exist at fair market values. The Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry has said that allowing LNG exports will "...go a long way to stabilize the exploration and production of natural gas. It would provide a new outlet for domestic production and prevent dramatic downturns in drilling when domestic supply outstrips demand."

Exporting LNG is truly in America's best interest. Not only would doing so greatly benefit the economy, but the global market would improve as well. I know Colorado, as well as other energy-rich states, will see immediate benefits if allowed to export LNG.

Best regards,

Colorado State Senator Greg Brophy