



Secretary Steven Chu
2012 LNG Export Study
U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34)
Office of Natural Gas Regulatory Activities
Office of Fossil Energy
P.O. Box 44375
Washington, DC 20026-4375

Dear Secretary Chu-

Our environment should always be a consideration when setting energy policy, along with the economy and job creation. However, this does not mean that a small minority of anti-drilling voices and self-interested companies should have convinced **Congressman Ed Markey** to ask you to halt your approval of the exportation of natural gas. There will always be obstructionists when it comes to broad attempts to improve the economy. I hope you will see your way through the opposition and approve this measure.

Natural gas is the up and coming industry in this part of Pennsylvania. Our only main thoroughfare, Route 6, is very busy these days with the biggest trucks I have ever seen. They are all associated with gas companies. I have friends with farms who are leasing some of their acreage for wells. The royalties will bring great rewards for them. This is a good sign, since our largest employer, Adelphia Cable, left town because of bankruptcy and consolidation. As a result, we will lose two thousand jobs. In a city of only three thousand and a county of eighteen thousand, basic math will tell you how devastating that was for us. Fortunately, Adelphia was prosperous in its heyday so that we are uniquely prepared for any industry that would like to move in. A beautiful system of fiber optics was laid down and call centers are ready to reboot. The owner of Adelphia even helped revitalize our downtown with his own money. Main Street is struggling; we can only hope things improve.

There are countless ancillary industries that will grow if we can export natural gas. It is probably the cleanest form of energy we can harness on a massive scale. Heating my home would be cost prohibitive if not for natural gas. Some days dip well below zero degrees. Other countries pay exorbitant energy rates and envy our vast supply. Selling our surplus to them makes perfect sense.

Thanks,


Alan Richards 2/13/2013