

Feb 10, 2013

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:

It is with great fervor that I implore you to approve the exportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Contrary to the letter sent to you by Representative Ed Markey, the economic benefits to this country far outweigh any marginal downside. It is not fair to our citizens that a small group of special interests have the final say on such a far-reaching decision.

We are fortunate in Person County, North Carolina, to have the huge Louisiana Pacific plant. This company produces building materials and has plants in four countries. The county also relies on the two coal fired plants for employment. These plants recently upgraded to comply with the new federal regulations, so they will be around for a while. Without industries such as these, cities would cease to exist. Most other townsfolk in Roxboro commute to the Durham Research Triangle for work. There is always room for growth. My husband and I own a dry cleaning business. Although we sold it two years ago, we held the note for the new owners. Unfortunately, things did not work out and we took it back. That means my husband will have to get it back into shape. Without a solid customer base, we will not get enough money out of it to make it profitable. The thing is, unemployed people do not have their clothes dry-cleaned. We are in our eighties and would like to finally retire.

Small businesses such as ours rely on a vibrant economy. We must return to being a manufacturing nation. Solid, permanent jobs are what the people need. I urge you to rely on the studies commissioned by your own office and approve the exportation of LNG. We have been mired in a stagnant economy for too long now.

Yours truly,

Betty Smith

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Smith".