



Feb 08, 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:

Americans are tired of promises that job growth is right around the corner. We never seem to get there. You have before you a proposal to allow the country to export its surplus of natural gas. Your studies have proved the immense benefits such a move will create. It is the one thing that may actually turn this economy right-side-up and create thousands and thousands of jobs.

My community was all about the copper mine. It shut down years ago; labor is cheaper abroad. We now depend on tourism for our livelihood. Folks are attracted to the mountains and white water rafting on the Ocoee River. My husband and I own a gift shop that caters to the tourist trade. We sell Christmas items, so one would think our business would be seasonal. This is not so. There was a time when we were busy all year since the town was always packed with visitors. The recession has caused our business to drop for the past three years. We are only busy from March through December. I do not think Americans can afford to travel as they used to. My husband, a professional Santa, is not jolly when our sales slide.

You were close to putting your seal of approval on the exportation of natural gas. I respectfully request that you carry this out, notwithstanding a small group of special interests who have persuaded **Representative Ed Markey** to write a letter asking you to reconsider. Opposition to this measure will cost us too much. We must allow our natural resources to work for us. It may be the one move that turns this country around.

Your constituent,

Diane Mann

Diane Mann