

02/12/2013



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-

When policies are being considered, jobs need to take precedence over all else. As I see it, even environmental concerns are secondary when the country's survival is at stake. Supporting the exportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) would bolster employment here at home using a resource which is plentiful and clean burning. This initiative must be implemented right away.

The Obama Administration's agenda has been harmful to the country; even the defense budget is taking a hit. To make matters worse, we are overly dependent on imported goods, an addiction that is killing domestic manufacturing. We are sending jobs overseas at an alarming rate. For instance, twenty people lost their jobs due to EPA regulations that were forced on the cabinet shop owner next door to me. In the end, he relocated to Ohio and went bankrupt. I do not support GM and similar American car companies who are rumored to employ large numbers of foreign workers, nor would I buy imported vehicles.

The state's main industries are mines, railroads, forestry, and schools. A recent mine cave-in placed a hold on all jobs where silver, copper, and gold are extracted. My friend now commutes several miles to get to work and stays there for a few days before driving back home, even though his wages are minimal. Cement and coal are shipped from Montana by rail, with coal mostly going overseas to places like China.

My community uses propane, which is more expensive but easier to obtain than natural gas. If we were to opt for that, we would have to look fifty miles away to Idaho to get it. Many of these issues have also been topics of discussion at church and at my senior center, which I visit only occasionally. Clearly, Americans young and old are concerned about jobs and the long-term future of our country. Representative Markey's naysaying is groundless, and I ask that you ignore it. Please authorize LNG exports.

Your constituent,

Earl Lewis