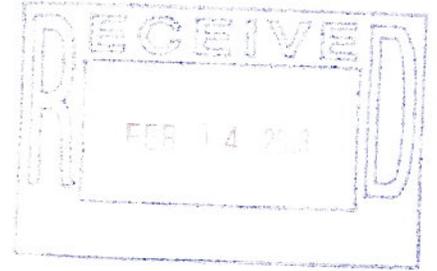Joseph Daigle

Feb 09, 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
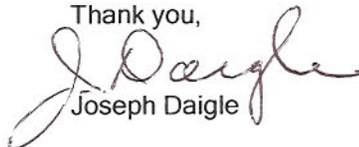P.O. Box 44375
Washington, DC 20026-4375

Dear Secretary Chu:

It appears that Representative Ed Markey, along with a smattering of special interest groups, is leading the charge against the exportation of liquefied natural gas. Studies commissioned by your office clearly state the benefits to the nation if you approve the measure. Our economy is not rebounding as quickly as we had hoped. We need a large export to turn things around. I urge you to disregard Congressman Markey's opposition and move forward on your approval.

Florida's unemployment rate is high compared to other states, and Marion County is one of the highest in the state. We have seen upwards of eleven percent for too long now. When unemployment is high, property values drop. I have been trying to sell a second home for eight months now; however, the value has dropped almost fifty percent. New home building has tanked, and with that small businesses and services dried up. My daughter is having a very tough time because of this recession. She has a degree in human resources and was laid off from a medical facility. Her husband was unable to hold a steady job and left her high and dry. She had no choice but to return to school so she could shift gears. With any luck, after her next course, she will be able to apply for a new position.

Ocala is horse country. We breed and train high-end horses in this area. When the economy is bad, folks do not buy expensive horses. An Arabian horse can go for as much as $200,000. For the sake of our small towns and the country as a whole, we must focus on a return to manufacturing. As long as we drill safely, we ought to be doing more of it and exporting the surplus. America has been waiting too long for this economy to turn around, and exporting LNG will give us the boost we need.

Thank you,

Joseph Daigle