



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,

Ohio is a wonderful place to live, with its four distinct seasons and rich farmland. Farming is our #1 industry, but we also have some equipment manufacturing in the area. It has declined a bit in the last year or so, but it seems to be coming back. I have noticed that people are buying and importing more foreign products, and that might be part of the reason our manufacturing has been disappearing. We need to start exporting more of our goods and resources, as opposed to bringing them in from abroad. There is now a growing surplus of natural gas available in the US. Therefore, exporting it to other countries is a good idea.

Although I personally know some people who are out of work, northern Ohio is doing better than are many places around the country. Our unemployment rate has risen slightly, but it is still only about 5.6 percent. I also know that Detroit, which is about 60 miles from here, is still going through a dark time. Its jobs are primarily in manufacturing, and the export of liquefied natural gas is one potential way to bring some of our manufacturing work back.

The government should take any measures they can to advance our economy. Occasionally, certain government policies can actually cause us to move backwards. We currently have an opportunity to export our natural gas for major profit, but people like Massachusetts **Congressman Ed Markey** are trying to block this growth. We obviously should handle projects like this with care, but slowing them down or blocking them outright are not the right solutions. We must allow natural gas to be exported so that we can have a boom in manufacturing and other industries here at home.

Best,


Lyle Smith