To Whom It May Concern:

There is no denying that the United States of America is a country worth fighting for. I am proud to have served this country since the age of 17, and continue to fight for our freedoms and liberties through my work with the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

It has been brought to my attention by thoughtful public comments submitted by U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Govs. Mike Beebe (Arkansas), Susana Martinez (New Mexico), Robert McDonnell (Virginia) and Earl Ray Tomblin (West Virginia), as well as information found in the NERA study, that LNG exports will result in “net economic benefits” for the United States, generating thousands of new jobs and billions in investment and growth in U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) should the U.S. move forward with the project.

Specifically, the NERA study suggests “GDP would rise by $5 billion to $20 billion under the reference case” (p 77) and that “the most dramatic changes are in the short term, when investment in liquefaction capacity adds to export revenues and tolling charges to grow GDP” (p 77).

With regard to the generation of new jobs, increasing domestic production of natural gas through LNG exports provides our nation with a very real job creation opportunity. As an advocate for veterans, especially those just returning home and looking for work, it is imperative that we explore and act on opportunities that put people back to work. It is my understanding that LNG exports would generate thousands of additional jobs in engineering, manufacturing, construction, and operation of the export infrastructure, as well as others indirectly along the equipment supply chain.

Knowing that the U.S. produces enough natural gas to meet both domestic and export needs, and that increased U.S. natural gas supplies could deliver greater geopolitical stability and national security, it would be in the best interest of the country to move forward with LNG exports. According the NERA, the U.S. is a leader in natural gas production. And, while the NERA used the Energy Information Administration (EIA) 2011 Annual Energy Outlook for its reporting, both the 2011 data and the latest data from the EIA 2013 Annual Energy Outlook confirm that the U.S. has abundant natural gas resources to supply the domestic market with affordable supplies of natural gas, while enabling the nation to accrue significant economic benefits from exporting supplies of LNG.

I implore you to move forward with the project in order to foster the resources we have in this country which will ultimately help to lessen our dependence on foreign oil, increase our energy security and create jobs in America.

Sincerely,
Mark Alvarez
District 2 Commander and Post 3308 Commander
Tallahassee Veterans of Foreign Wars
Tallahassee, FL