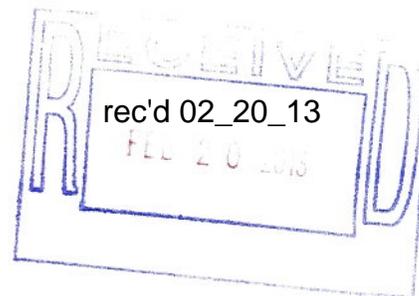


Secretary Steven Chu
2012 LNG Export Study
U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34)
Office of Natural Gas Regulatory Activities
Office of Fossil Energy
P.O. Box 44375
Washington, DC 20026-4375



Dear Secretary Chu-

This country needs to pursue opportunities to restore our trade balance and put Americans back in the workplace. The proposal for the new export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) would put us on track to accomplish both goals. The oppositional view that you have received from Congressman Markey should not be heeded; if we have enough production to support us domestically, there is no reason to refuse export of the surplus.

In 2004, I retired from 35 years in quality control of the gunpowder operations at General Dynamics. In that time, I worked closely with the raw material supply lines, including natural gas. Therefore, I understand what the resource producers face. I also realize how their operations would grow if they were able to produce more than necessary to meet our need. Exportation would give them the opportunity to make optimal use of the surplus.

My wife and I are very fortunate to live in the Tallahassee area. With the universities and manufacturers nearby, our unemployment rate is very low. Many other regions in this country, however, do not have the same luxury. Growth in the gas industry would lead to jobs throughout the energy sector across America. This, and the steps it will take towards our trade deficit, are two reasons why LNG exportation needs to be allowed.

Sincerely,

Michael Lafon