

Ray Thomas

Feb 10, 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,

As with any innovative idea, there are always those who are bent on throwing a wrench in the works. Ranking member of Congress, Ed Markey, is trying to do just that with his letter of disapproval. I implore you to look at the big picture of exporting liquefied natural gas and not get mired in the nitpicking of those in opposition. This country has to return to prosperity, and that means we must dream big and become exporters once again.

It is well known that energy companies provide rock solid employment for large numbers of people. Now retired, I was a civil engineer for American Electric Power in Columbus. That was twenty years ago, and I still miss the work. Increased production of natural gas will serve this country well when it comes to employment. Trained professionals like me will be put to good use once again. Employment is not the only benefit new industries offer. My wife's sister passed away in October, and few days later an offer was made on the home she lived in. Since this home is in South Youngstown, I have a strong feeling it was needed for employee housing for a gas company in the area. That part of Ohio is booming with the onset of fracking. Much like North Dakota, demand for housing will probably become a whole new industry in and of itself.

Job creation and the economy are a big concern of mine. That does not mean the environment should take a back seat. All three factors have finally culminated in the form of natural gas. It is really the cleanest energy we can produce on a vast scale. Expanded production and exportation means untold jobs and billions of private funds invested in our country. We are at the precipice, staring down at the economic abyss. You can turn things around with the stroke of your pen. I urge you to move forward and permit this great country to export liquefied natural gas.

Regards,

Ray Thomas