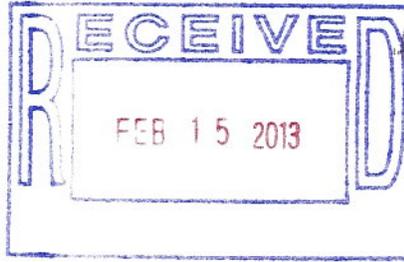


Richard Merk .

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



FEBRUARY 12, 2013

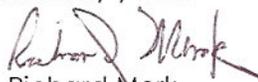
Dear Secretary Chu,

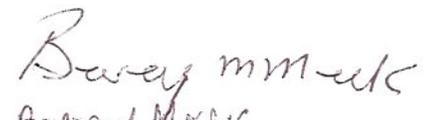
Investing \$25 billion into our energy infrastructure is a relatively modest means of getting this country back on track, especially if most of the funds come from private industry. Let's face it: our governmental spending is significantly higher, and it isn't even guaranteed to pay off in the long run. By contrast, your authorization of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports might well create at least tens of thousands of new jobs.

Many of the jobs would come from the process of converting natural gas into liquefied form for export. We would need expert engineers, construction workers and manufacturers to take well-paying, stable jobs. It would be wonderful if other parts of California could enjoy the same seven percent unemployment rate seen by us residents of Silicon Valley. In this area, Google, Facebook, Chevron and electronic companies including Hewlett Packard are strong foundations for our hometown of Campbell. However, much of the State is depressed due to environmental restrictions. Congressman Markey's opposition to LNG exportation would only bring us further down this road of federal over-regulation.

Now in retirement from the transportation industry, my wife and I are empty nesters. With two children and grandchildren, we want to continue to enjoy our beautiful countryside in a nation whose future is secure. We cannot afford to be left out of this burgeoning energy trade, especially not in California where the cost of living is higher than everywhere else in the United States. Therefore, I ask that you support LNG exportation to benefit us all.

Sincerely yours,

  
Richard Merk

  
BEVERLY MERK