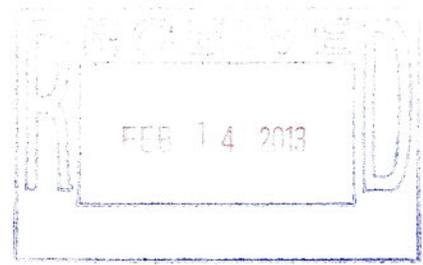


Ronald Jones



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,

Congressman Ed Markey's recent letter to you is completely and utterly wrong. He, and anyone who opposes exporting LNG, needs to look at the bigger picture and lend support to what will boost our economy. Otherwise, we will miss out. Exporting liquefied natural gas (LNG) promises to bring about jobs and fix our currently dismal economy. The Department of Energy should decide in favor of LNG export authorization.

Living in Oak Hill, Ohio, I have been employed for 40 years as a heavy equipment operator for Waterloo Coal Company. Oak Hill is a rural city with two coal companies and a refractory plant as its major industries. Sadly, one of the coal companies had to lay off half of their staff at the start of the new year. It isn't a surprise, since so many environmental regulations have stifled these industries, causing the loss of many jobs and bringing on the recession. The unemployment rate in Oak Hill is higher than the national average at 8.3 percent. Environmental regulation has made it harder to obtain permits in a reasonable amount of time. For example, it once took only six months for a coal company to obtain an adjacent area permit; now it takes two years.

Energy policies should be set with jobs and the economy in mind, not just the environment. The impact of LNG production would be positive for our area. We do not have an active well here, but exploratory ones were built four or five years ago. Fracking is conducted in eastern Ohio on the Marcellus Shale and it has been beneficial. Authorizing LNG exports would expand natural gas production and everyone would benefit from the overall boost. I hope the Department of Energy will continue to look at the bigger picture, accept the findings of their own study, and authorize LNG exports.

Best regards,

Ronald Jones