

Ronald McClenning

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,

For over 41 years, I worked in the printing press business and am now enjoying my retirement. Although the exportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) may not benefit me directly, I have a son working as an attorney in the natural resource industry. No doubt, this issue could have a major impact on him and the scope of his work, since federal energy policy seems to be leaning toward blocking any progress when it comes to resource development. Those reactionary policies hurt those who need jobs and cause our economy to continue to stagnate.

Here in Billings, Montana, the main industry is agriculture. Fortunately, our local economy has fared relatively well. Furthermore, vast natural gas deposits located in the eastern part of the state, as well as some locally that produce natural gas, have meant an infusion of revenue. If we take the step to export natural gas in its liquefied form, that would only bring more jobs here locally, as well as nationally. Exporting a resource that is in demand can make a strong industry even better.

I have to believe that the US Department of Energy and certain public officials such as Representative Ed Markey are stonewalling efforts to export LNG because of possible environmental considerations. In my estimation, that is a weak argument. The industry has proven that LNG can be safely extracted and refined, and has done everything to meet strict federal standards. Our government needs to place the needs of its citizens first and to strengthen our economy by allowing LNG exports to be approved.

Sincerely yours,


Ronald McClenning