

Ronald Poor

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:

The economic environment in North Carolina is akin to living through the second Great Depression. That's why I was so amazed and pleased that the United States department of energy is considering the exportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG). I should have realized it would not be easy. Not only do we have our own state government that is hostile to new and existing business, but also US Rep. Ed Markey is apparently trying to rally a campaign against this initiative. The advantages of LNG exportation are clear; opposing it is not in our best interest.

Asheville, North Carolina, is almost totally dependent on tourism. It is basically the only industry we have now. We have a casino that still operates in the black, but just barely. This is in part because our state government, as I said previously, is hostile towards business. We pay the highest gas taxes, highest income and sales tax, and we cannot attract new business to our state or keep the ones we have. Our tobacco industry has collapsed. Unemployment is very high. Maybe our new state legislature, which for the first time since the Civil War is a Republican majority, will be able to turn this around. Fortunately, I am a professor at a local college and education is a fairly recession-proof career. This is not necessarily so for students, as the attrition rate in my electronic engineering classes is about sixty percent. Many cannot afford the cost of continuing with their higher education.

Therefore, I am really hoping that the US Department of Energy will act in the best interest of the American people. Natural gas is bountiful in our country. In fact, I think we could be described as the Saudi Arabia of natural gas. Allowing for the exportation of LNG could be the saving grace for so many Americans.

Thank you,



Ronald Poor