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I encourage the DOE to expeditiously approve the pending LNG export applications. I have read and concur in the comments submitted by Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski on January 25, 2013. More specifically, as Senator Murkowski points out, exporting some of America's abundant natural gas to global markets is a major opportunity for the U.S., and it generates investment and jobs. Clearly these increases in exports will ease our balance of trade deficit - something we must do in our country. (Over the last 10 years, the U.S. has run an annual average trade deficit of over one-half trillion dollars. The 2011 trade deficit was $560A billion.)

NERA concludes "the average annual increase in revenues from LNG exports ranges from about $2.6 billion to almost $32.9 billion". The additional gas production associated with exports would also generate billions of dollars annually in much needed federal and state government revenue.

As a retired military officer (Maj Gen, USAF), I am very interested and committed to a strong, viable economy in our country (more jobs and investment created by approval of LNG exports) and to continuing our role as a leader in the international community. In closing, I urge the DOE to take positive action and approve the pending LNG export applications. The growth and health of our national economy and national well being depend on it.

Thank you for your consideration.