Hello,

Please see attached statement concerning Representative Drew Darby's support for the LNG Study. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Truly, *Victoria Rose Messer* Legislative Aide Representative Drew Darby Capitol Extension E2.406 (512) 463-0331

## **TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES**

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## Drew Darby

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January 24, 2013

The Honorable Steven Chu Secretary U.S. Department of Energy 1000 Independence Avenue SW Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu,

I urge you to move quickly to evaluate pending non-free trade LNG export applications and approve those projects meeting the necessary qualifications. The recent Department of Energy (DOE) study on the macroeconomic impacts of U.S. LNG exports concludes that, "In all the scenarios analyzed in this study ... the U.S. would experience net economic benefits from increased LNG exports." This conclusion is consistent with numerous other recent studies finding that the benefits of LNG exports would exceed any associated costs.

With several liquefaction projects proposed in Texas, working people and businesses in our state stand to benefit directly from the economic opportunity created by LNG exports. But swift export permit approval is an economic winner not just for Texans but for all Americans. Each LNG export facility is a multi-billion dollar private sector investment in the U.S. economy that will create jobs, broad economic growth, including in the manufacturing sector, and reduce our trade deficit. A single new LNG project could create as many as 48,000 new jobs in design, engineering, construction, and operation, which in turn will translate into hundreds of millions of dollars in new wages for American workers. Additionally, local, state, and federal tax revenue created by a single facility could exceed \$4.5 billion over the 30-year lifespan of an LNG export project.

American ingenuity has led to dramatic increases in proven U.S. natural gas reserves in recent years, and experts now estimate that the United States has almost 100 years of supply at current consumption levels. This abundance allows us to seize the opportunity to increase LNG exports while simultaneously increasing domestic use for power generation, manufacturing and transportation. The DOE's macroeconomic study concludes that, given this abundance, the United States can export gas without significant domestic price impacts, as the exported gas would largely come from increases in U.S. gas production.

Exporting LNG to America's trading partners is clearly in the public interest. Pending permit applications for LNG facilities should be approved without delay so we can take advantage of this unique American opportunity to create jobs, boost the economy, and reduce our trade deficit, all while continuing to expand domestic use of this clean-burning source of American energy.

Sincerely,

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