

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 6, 2014

The Honorable Ernest J. Moniz  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

As co-leaders of the House of Representatives LNG Export Working Group we are writing to inquire about your forward looking plans for the review of pending LNG export permits.

As you know, the development of America's natural gas resources contained in shale deposits has had a dramatic impact on the price and supply of energy in the U.S. The Potential Gas Committee recently estimated that the U.S. has reserves of 2,384 trillion cubic feet, which would be able to meet our current demand for over 150 years. We would also note that the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Annual Energy Outlook 2014 Early Release found that domestic natural gas production will increase 56 percent from 2012 to 2040, while domestic natural gas consumption will rise 23 percent over the same period. The difference between increase production and consumption clearly illustrates an opportunity for the U.S. to sell natural gas to our friends and allies around the world who will pay us a premium for these resources. Allowing the sale of our natural gas abroad will bring money back to the U.S., create more jobs in shale gas development and in construction and manufacturing, and provide significant tax revenue to our local, state, and federal governments.

We are all very troubled by the recent developments in Ukraine and the aggressive actions taken by Russia. However, we believe this has shed light on a very serious issue and one that we see only exacerbating in the coming months and years. EU and non-EU countries in that region are desperate to buy natural gas from the U.S. while we stand by, seemingly hamstrung to an outdated policy of reviewing facilities one by one over the course of many years, as opposed to allowing the market and respective companies' progress to determine the outcome. Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Sweden, Finland, and Latvia are all 100% dependent on Russia for their natural gas consumption, with many other countries in that region at well over 50% dependency. If we take swift action now, we can stimulate our economy, bolster our allies, and significantly aid our political leverage in the region.

Given this opportunity, we must note that while we were encouraged to see the recent order granting the Cameron LNG facility in Louisiana permission to export LNG to countries with which we do not currently have a free trade agreement, the consideration of Cameron LNG's non-FTA export application took over two years for the Department to complete. This is an unacceptable amount of time for a potential project to wait in uncertainty. In the wake of this approval, we have been particularly concerned with public statements from lawmakers who have previously been opposed to LNG exports, and have made threats to hold up a Department of

Energy nomination until they were assured of a delay in the approval process. Now, it appears these lawmakers may be content with the current status and long term prospects of the LNG export facility approval process after discussions with you. We hope that any long term strategy on this issue from your Department is not a further continuation of this drawn out process. If so, that would be a very troubling and regressive development.

We are requesting to be similarly informed about the Department's strategy for processing the pending applications in the form of a written response to this letter and would respectfully request a meeting with the Secretary to enhance our understanding. We would hope that the current pace of approvals is significantly quickened and that DOE has no plans to pause the approval process for further study of this issue. It is clear that our economy, our national security, and the stability of numerous allied nations cannot afford to wait any longer for us to move forward on our natural gas export policy.

Sincerely,



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress