

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 7, 2014

The Honorable Ernest Moniz  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585-0002

Dear Secretary Moniz,

We write to express our support for the expedited consideration of liquefied natural gas (LNG) export projects. A recent study by NERA Economic Consulting confirmed that increasing LNG exports could have a significant impact on the U.S. economy. According to the report, “U.S. economic welfare consistently increases as the volume of natural gas exports increases.”

America’s natural gas boom has been a remarkable phenomenon. Production in the United States has greatly increased in recent years, with projections showing the rise will continue. At the same time, natural gas in the international market remains in high demand. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has projected that global trade of LNG will more than double by 2040. Congress must play its part to ensure that America’s natural gas producers have the opportunity to compete worldwide.

LNG exports are also important to America’s national security interests at home and abroad. If the United States can provide an abundant and reliable natural gas alternative to our allies, we can help reduce the leverage of nations like Russia that use the energy market to impose their will and create unrest. In light of Russia’s actions in Ukraine, we must consider how increased U.S. natural gas capacity can help mitigate the effects of such aggression and violations of international law.

The Administration, however, has been slow to approve applications to export LNG to countries that do not yet have free trade agreements with the United States. One of the facilities awaiting a decision is the Gulf LNG Liquefaction Company in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The company estimates that Department of Energy approval of its request could lead to approximately \$8 billion in investment and the creation of numerous jobs for the region. And yet, the Gulf LNG application has been pending with DOE since 2012.

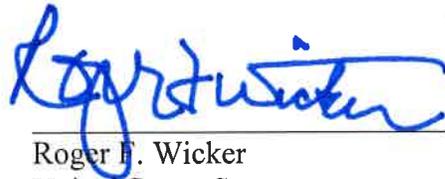
There is significant bipartisan support in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to expedite and streamline LNG export applications. The economic and national security advantages of supporting LNG exports are too great for bureaucratic roadblocks to stall America's potential. We strongly encourage you to improve the LNG export application process for our domestic energy industry.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Thad Cochran  
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator