



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
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EARL RAY TOMBLIN  
GOVERNOR

January 16, 2013

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary  
United States Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

As Governor of West Virginia, I join with fellow governors representing different regions of the country; we have witnessed the natural gas supply revolution that is transforming our states and the nation. This surge in clean, domestic, affordable energy is stimulating local economies, creating millions of jobs, and enabling new opportunities for our nation. But the opportunity could be greater and the impact more far-reaching. I am writing you today regarding the importance of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports and creating a free and open marketplace for U.S. energy supplies.

First, we are pleased with the long-awaited December release of the report conducted for the Department of Energy (DOE) entitled "Macroeconomic Impacts of LNG Exports from the United States." We were pleased to see the report concluded that each LNG export scenario the study reviewed resulted in "net economic benefits" for the United States. The report also found that while additional exports could impact domestic natural gas prices, any increases would be offset by U.S. economic benefits.

The construction and operation of LNG export terminals and increased exploration and production activity will support thousands, if not many times that, of jobs and billions in investment at a time when such a free-market stimulus is so desperately needed. Assuredly, this means growth in domestic GDP and an opportunity restore our international balance of trade. We cannot afford for this to become another "missed opportunity."

The global opportunity U.S. natural gas supplies could also have in delivering greater geopolitical stability and national security cannot be overlooked. Stabilizing world energy markets with U.S. natural gas supplies could help free global economies from being forced to rely primarily on Russia or OPEC for energy needs.

To date, one LNG terminal at Sabine Pass in Louisiana has been approved to sell natural gas overseas while more than 10 other projects remain pending. As one of our nation's governors, I strongly urge you to move forward in considering and approving these pending projects and completing the economic study your department is undertaking.


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Secretary Chu

Thus, with the recent long-awaited release of the DOE report, I respectfully urge you to advance without delay through the comment period and approval of the pending export project permits. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Earl Ray Tomblin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and "R".

Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor