Liquefied natural gas exports represent an enormous opportunity not only to increase U.S. trade, but also to create thousands of new American jobs. These jobs would not only be created at each LNG facility, but throughout the entire value chain, by employing people such as steel workers, turbine manufacturers, pipefitters and others, which would help communities across the entire United States.

The Facts

Each LNG export project would be a multi-billion dollar investment in the U.S. According to the U.S. International Trade Administration, each $1 billion of exports could result in 5,555 new jobs. Thus, $13 billion to $25 billion worth of LNG exports could mean the creation of between 70,000 and 140,000 new American jobs.

LNG exports are consistent with long-standing U.S. international trade policy to reduce barriers to trade, as well as with the President’s National Export Initiative to expand exports. President Obama has stated that “the United States is going to be a net exporter of energy because of new technologies and what we’re doing with natural gas and oil.” (TIME Magazine, December 2012)

According to analyses by Deloitte and the Energy Information Administration (EIA), LNG exports will lead to additional U.S. natural gas production, which will in turn help create hundreds of thousands of much needed jobs in the United States. A recent IHS CERA study found that unconventional gas development supported one million jobs in 2010, and expanded development will support 1.5 million U.S. jobs by 2015 and 2.4 million jobs by 2035. (Deloitte, 12/20/2011; EIA, January 2012)

Construction and operation of a new project to liquefy natural gas for export will create tens of thousands of jobs in manufacturing, construction and transportation, which translates into hundreds of millions of dollars in new wages for U.S. workers during the construction and maintenance of the facility. (U.S. Dept. of Energy LNG Permit Application, August 2012, pg. 3-4)

According to Michael Levi, Director of the Energy Security and Climate Change Program at the Council on Foreign Relations, expanded natural gas production required for just a portion of the proposed LNG export facilities would support approximately 40,000 jobs along the entire supply chain. (Hamilton Project, June 2012, p. 6)