



The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2183 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
237 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Bishop, Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
123 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1511 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2016

Dear Senators Murkowski and Cantwell and Congressmen Upton, Pallone, Bishop and Grijalva:

The Center for Liquefied Natural Gas (CLNG) writes to voice our support for moving forward with a conference committee agreement and the final passage of an energy bill that contains the provision to codify the timeline for Department of Energy (DOE) reviews of liquefied natural gas (LNG) export permits to non-free trade agreement (FTA) countries. As you know, this important provision has bipartisan support in both chambers and must, we believe, be a part of any final legislation. We further urge conference committee negotiators to complete their work and bring the underlying bill containing the LNG exports provision to a vote before the end of the 114th Congress.

The world is hungry for U.S. natural gas and the geopolitical implications of LNG exports are tremendous. Our allies and trading partners around the world, are seeking opportunities to diversify their energy supplies to bolster their own energy and national security profiles. For the first time in decades, the United States can be one of their options. Seizing this opportunity to export LNG can pay economic, geopolitical and environmental dividends for the U.S.

While LNG export terminals take years to develop and build, many planned facilities have already advanced detailed engineering plans and started negotiations toward long-term sales agreements with international consumers. These agreements are essential for project developers to secure the financing they need to construct LNG terminals. It is extremely difficult for projects to make final investment decisions and arrange

funding until the DOE approves a project's export application. The LNG industry is ready to create jobs and help supply global demand for natural gas, but it needs regulatory certainty and a clear timeline for action on exports applications from DOE to do so.

Energy legislation passed by both the House and Senate contains a critical provision that would provide the regulatory certainty that the LNG industry needs to proceed with making billions of dollars of investments in critical infrastructure. Specifically, each chamber has passed a measure that would stipulate a deadline for DOE to act on non-FTA export applications within a certain number of days, following conclusion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review.

The LNG industry strongly supports codifying the number of days DOE has to act on a non-FTA export application because, unfortunately, the timeline for DOE action on previous applications has been inconsistent and lacking in transparency. That said, DOE has stated that it could reasonably act on these applications within 30 days of the conclusion of NEPA review. As such, we believe that the provision is both practical and will offer an immediate solution to one of the most pressing issues facing our industry. We urge Congress to codify it into law.

We appreciate the hard work that you have put into striking a conference committee agreement and encourage you to enact a bipartisan energy bill before the end of 2016.

Please contact us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Charlie Riedl
Executive Director, Center for Liquefied Natural Gas