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The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

March 14, 2017

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The American Petroleum Institute (API) strongly supports the expedited approval of all liquefied natural gas (LNG) export authorization applications to both Free Trade and non-Free Trade Agreement (FTA) countries that are still pending before the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). U.S. LNG exports will create American jobs, bolster our economy, strengthen the global energy market, and help enhance our national security interests abroad.

The first shipments of U.S. LNG from the lower 48 states began last year and are having a positive effect on global LNG markets by increasing market flexibility and providing a cleaner-burning reliable fuel option for our allies and trading partners. However, the United States has an even greater opportunity to bolster its emerging role as a leader in the world energy marketplace. There are more than two dozen non-FTA LNG export authorization applications before DOE, with approximately half awaiting consideration since 2014. Expediting the approval of these export authorization applications will help establish regulatory certainty, bolster American job creation and U.S. investment, and allow U.S. companies to compete in the global natural gas marketplace.

Technological breakthroughs in the oil and natural gas industry have established the United States as the world's largest natural gas producer. We have enough natural gas to supply affordable energy domestically and significantly increase U.S. participation in the global market for LNG. Since 2005, natural gas production in the United States has increased by 47 percent, and the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects a 42 percent increase in total natural gas production from 2016 to 2040. EIA also confirms that increased natural gas production will support growing domestic demand for natural gas and LNG exports. Further, study after study concludes that expanding export opportunities will create jobs and strengthen our economy. And independent reports show exporting U.S. LNG will reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

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The trade of any commodity promotes domestic jobs and economic growth. Expanding demand for U.S. natural gas in international markets through LNG exports will likewise result in increased investment, enhanced economic activity, rising incomes, and more American jobs – just as the case has been with increasing exports in other U.S. industries, including those that utilize natural gas, such as our nation’s petrochemical manufacturing industry. Exporting natural gas directly supports thousands of U.S. jobs in engineering, manufacturing, construction, and operation of the export infrastructure, as well as others indirectly along the equipment supply chain. Further, LNG exports will incentivize greater U.S. natural gas production and support thousands of additional American jobs.

From a national security perspective, accelerating exports of U.S. LNG will help strengthen our strategic alliances abroad. For example, the 2016 NATO Warsaw Summit Declaration specifically states that access to stable and diverse energy suppliers is of critical importance to the alliance. Exporting U.S. LNG will introduce an alternative and reliable source of energy to the global marketplace, providing international consumers with greater choice and helping to curb the use of energy as a political weapon.

API respectfully requests the expedited approval of all pending FTA and non-FTA LNG export authorization applications. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to continue America’s energy renaissance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Gerard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jack N. Gerard
President and CEO
American Petroleum Institute