

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2012

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

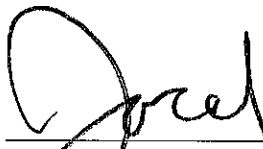
As the Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy (DOE/FE) considers proposals to export liquefied natural gas (LNG), we urge the DOE/FE to consider the potential environmental impacts of increased U.S. gas production pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Specifically, we request that the DOE/FE prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to determine how LNG exports may potentially increase environmental risks in communities where natural gas is extracted.

We are concerned that exporting more LNG would lead to greater hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," activity thus threatening the health of local residents and jobs. For instance, increased natural gas production in communities across the nation could negatively impact farmers, residents, and local property values. The potential benefits from increased trade should be weighed against the increased health costs of additional fracking.

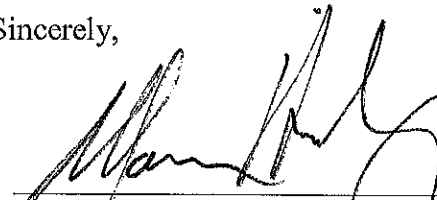
Under NEPA, "all agencies of the Federal Government" must prepare an EIS for every "major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." Even though exporting nearly one-third of our domestic gas production certainly constitutes a major Federal action, the DOE has not yet conducted an EIS. A comprehensive EIS is essential to understanding the upstream public health and environmental effects resulting from increased domestic fracking. Further, an EIS ensures that decision-makers are fully analyzing the environmental risks posed by exporting LNG.

Before issuing any additional permits for the construction of LNG export facilities, we respectfully request that the DOE/FE complete a comprehensive EIS. Such a review would inform your agency's decision and address the environmental and health impacts in our communities that may result from the opportunity to increase LNG exports.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

Bob Filner
Bob Filner
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel
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Barbara Lee
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