

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries,

The undersigned organizations strongly support H.R. 7176, *Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act*, as this commonsense measure would eliminate duplication in the permitting process for liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports and thereby expedite U.S. LNG exports to our global allies.

When Russia, which historically accounted for roughly 40 percent of European natural gas supply, invaded Ukraine in 2022, the United States stepped up to help our European allies and shipped an average of 6.8 billion cubic feet per day to the continent in 2022. Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted during a trip to Brussels that this 141 percent increase has bolstered America’s geopolitical interests and significantly undercut Russian influence in the region.¹

The United States was not always a guarantor of global energy security, and U.S. consumers and businesses once seemed destined to perpetual dependence on foreign countries for our own energy needs. In fact, only two decades ago, domestic natural gas production was declining, and the United States was predicted to become a significant *importer* of natural gas.

However, thanks to the shale revolution and bipartisan support of American energy, the United States is now both the largest producer of natural gas and the top exporter of LNG globally.

Natural gas has enabled the United States to lead the world in reducing CO₂ emissions over the past two decades and U.S. LNG exports can help accelerate further progress around the world, providing an emissions reduction “template” to countries—particularly in Asia—still heavily reliant on coal and other more carbon intensive fuels.

Numerous studies—and eight years of operating experience—have demonstrated that U.S. LNG exports serve the public interest. Despite claims to the contrary, a recent economic study found that LNG exports “have not had any sustained and significant direct impact on [U.S.] natural gas prices...”² Another report concluded that the lack of new natural gas pipeline infrastructure is a material impediment to bringing the lowest cost gas resources to the market.³

¹ <https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-remarks-before-u-s-eu-energy-council-meeting/>

² https://lngallies.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/USLNG_Price_Study_2023-05-18.pdf

³ https://accf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/ACCF_NatGas_Market_052123.pdf

Furthermore, the most recent review from the Potential Gas Committee found that U.S. natural gas resources continue to grow, hitting yet another all-time high of 3,353 trillion cubic feet. U.S. LNG exports will help continue to unlock these abundant resources and the many economic and climate benefits they represent.

To maintain our role as a vital supplier of global energy, America needs to have a predictable permitting process that encourages critical investments in energy infrastructure. H.R. 7176 eliminates the present duplicative administration of LNG exports and sends a signal to the international community that U.S. LNG will remain a reliable source of energy.

Our organizations welcomed the U.S. House of Representatives' prior approval of H.R. 7176 as part of H.R. 1, and we urge members to continue their support for this meaningful energy policy.

Sincerely,

American Exploration & Production Council
American Gas Association
American Petroleum Institute
Center for LNG
Energy Workforce & Technology Council
GPA Midstream Association
GPSA Association
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
LNG Allies, The USLNG Association
Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association
Marcellus Shale Coalition
Montana Petroleum Association
New Mexico Oil & Gas Association
North Dakota Petroleum Council
Ohio Oil and Gas Association
Petroleum Association of Wyoming
Texas Alliance of Energy Producers
Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association
Texas Oil & Gas Association
The Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma
Utah Petroleum Association
Western States Petroleum Association