

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-3641

Minority (202) 225-2927

February 4, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write regarding the announcement that the Department of Energy (DOE) will stop issuing indefinitely permits to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) while your administration conducts an additional “public interest” review, including environmental, economic, and environmental justice criteria.<sup>1</sup> This is economically and strategically dangerous and unnecessary. Under both Democratic and Republican administrations, DOE has consistently found that U.S. LNG exports serve the “public interest” because they contribute positive economic benefits and strengthen energy security for the American people, and also have the potential to reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.<sup>2</sup>

We stand at a pivotal moment. Our European allies are desperately seeking American energy to counter Russia’s weaponization of its natural gas exports. In December 2023, over 87 percent of U.S. LNG exports went to the European Union, United Kingdom, or Asian markets.<sup>3</sup> Actions that slow or halt the ability to export U.S. LNG would weaken global energy security and put these strategic markets at risk. Such actions would undercut efforts we have made to help Europe reduce its reliance on Russian energy. Such actions would also interfere with domestic markets for natural gas, jeopardizing the stability and affordability of prices for American consumers.

Your administration should do everything it can to encourage greater production of clean-burning and reliable natural gas, and to grant the export permits that allow access to global

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-update-public-interest-analysis-enhance-national-security-achieve-clean-energy-goals>; Lefebvre, Ben. “Biden’s Aides Weigh Climate Test for Natural Gas Exports.” POLITICO, 9 Jan. 2024, [www.politico.com/news/2024/01/09/bidens-aides-weigh-climate-test-for-natural-gas-exports-00134631](https://www.politico.com/news/2024/01/09/bidens-aides-weigh-climate-test-for-natural-gas-exports-00134631).

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., [LNG Export Studies | Department of Energy and 2019 NETL LCA-GHG Report.pdf \(energy.gov\)](#)


<sup>3</sup> Williams, Curtis. US Was Top LNG Exporter in 2023 as Hit Record Levels, Thomson Reuters, 3 Jan. 2024, [www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-was-top-lng-exporter-2023-hit-record-levels-2024-01-02/](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-was-top-lng-exporter-2023-hit-record-levels-2024-01-02/).

markets. In just seven years, the U.S. has increased its LNG export capacity from zero to 11.6 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d).<sup>4</sup> During the same period, the spot price of U.S. natural gas has remained relatively stable and affordable. The average Henry Hub spot price in December 2023 was just 53 cents higher than when LNG was exported from the United States in February 2016.<sup>5</sup> This has occurred despite the rampant inflation that has hampered our economy since 2021. Additionally, U.S. LNG has played a key role in reducing global energy prices. Notably, U.S. LNG helped reduce natural gas prices in Europe by over 83 percent from 2022 levels following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.<sup>6</sup>

American natural gas producers and exporters are primed to build on these successes. With five LNG export projects currently under construction with a combined 9.7 Bcf/d of export capacity, these projects will provide high-paying, stable jobs at every stage of the energy value chain, which helps all Americans.<sup>7</sup> Studies show that LNG exports could add upwards of \$73 billion to the U.S. economy by 2040, create upwards of 453,000 American jobs, and increase U.S. held purchasing power by \$30 billion.<sup>8</sup> Policies supporting LNG exports will grow our economy, create good paying jobs, and strengthen the energy security of our allies.

We urge you to end this unnecessary review and expeditiously approve all pending applications to increase the global supply of natural gas.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce



Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House



Steve Scalise  
Majority Leader



Tom Emmer  
Majority Whip

<sup>4</sup> Fleury, Katy. U.S. Exports of Natural Gas Set a Record High in the First Half of 2023 - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), U.S. Energy Information Administration, 4 Oct. 2023, [www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=60582](http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=60582).


<sup>5</sup> Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price, U.S. Energy Information Administration, 10 Jan. 2024, [www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/hist/rngwhhdm.htm](http://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/hist/rngwhhdm.htm).

<sup>6</sup> "Monthly Natural Gas Prices United States and Europe from January 2014 to December 2023." Statista, 9 Jan. 2024, [www.statista.com/statistics/673333/monthly-prices-for-natural-gas-in-the-united-states-and-europe/](http://www.statista.com/statistics/673333/monthly-prices-for-natural-gas-in-the-united-states-and-europe/).

<sup>7</sup> Zaretskaya, Victoria, and Max Ober. LNG Export Capacity from North America Is Likely to More than Double through 2027 - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), U.S. Energy Information Administration, 13 Nov. 2023,

[www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=60944#:~:text=We%20expect%20North%20America%27s%20liquefied,t o%20its%20existing%20LNG%20capacity](http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=60944#:~:text=We%20expect%20North%20America%27s%20liquefied,t o%20its%20existing%20LNG%20capacity).

<sup>8</sup> Vidas, Harry. Impact of LNG Exports on the U.S. Economy: A Brief Update, ICF, Sept. 2017, [www.api.org/-/media/files/policy/lng-exports/2020/apius-lng.pdf](http://www.api.org/-/media/files/policy/lng-exports/2020/apius-lng.pdf).



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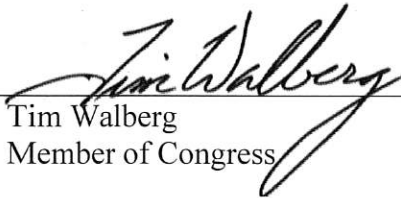
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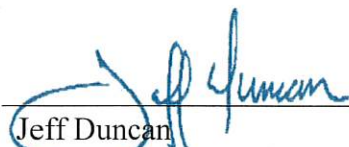
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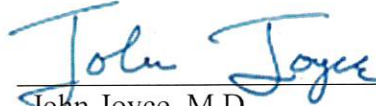
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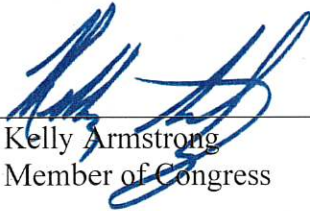
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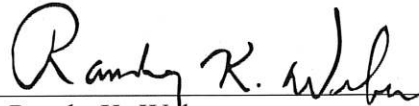
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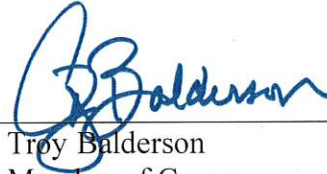
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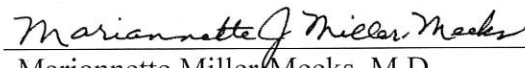
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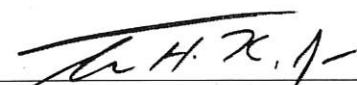
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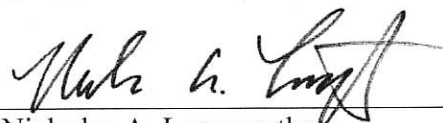
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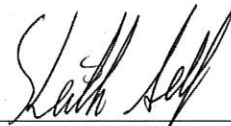
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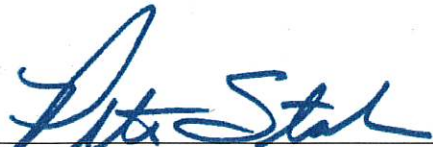
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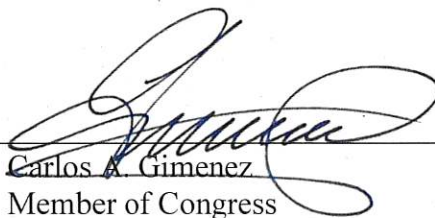
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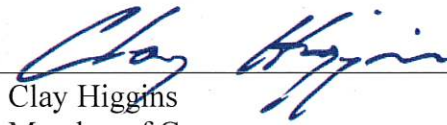
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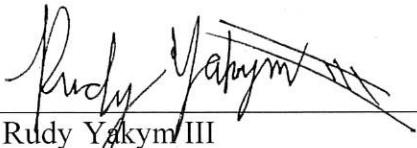
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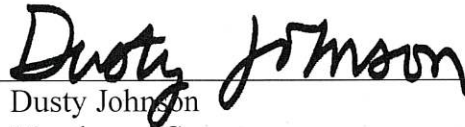
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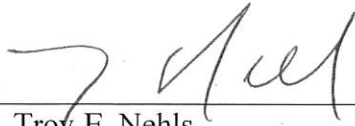
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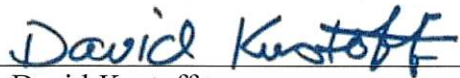
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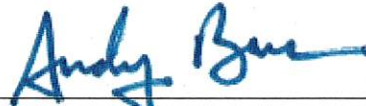
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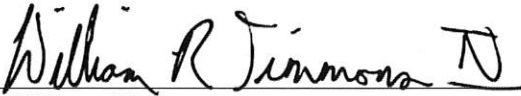
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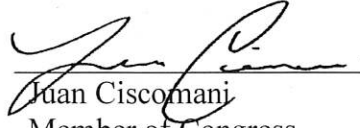
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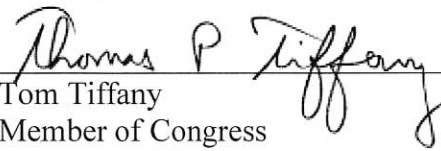
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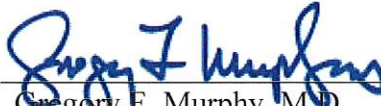
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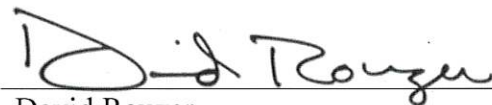
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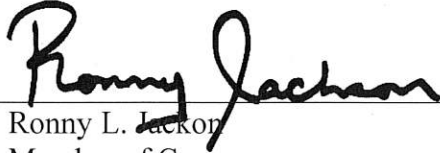




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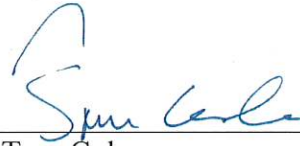
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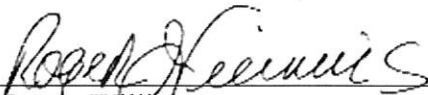
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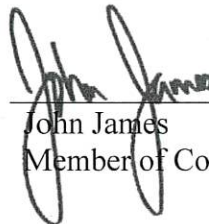
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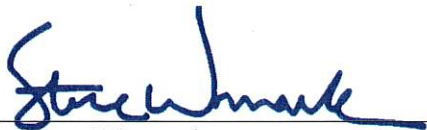
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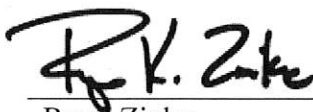
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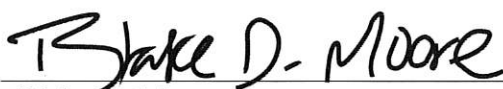
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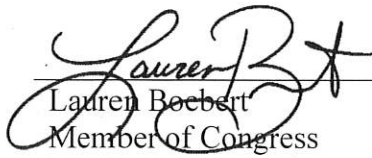
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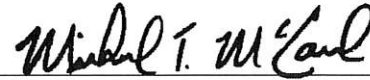
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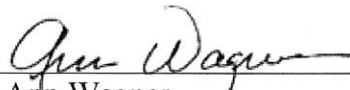
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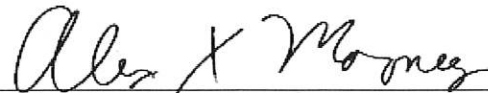
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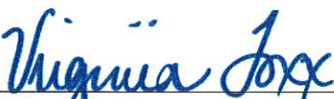
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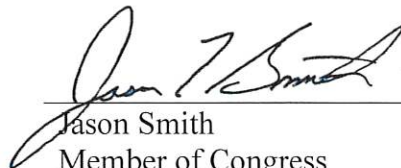
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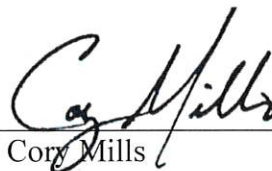
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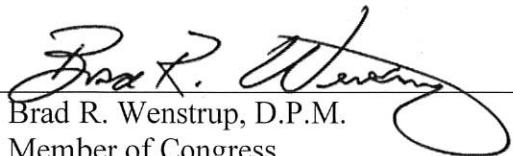
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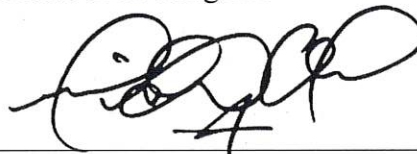
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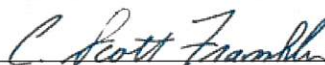
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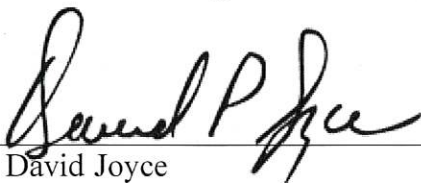
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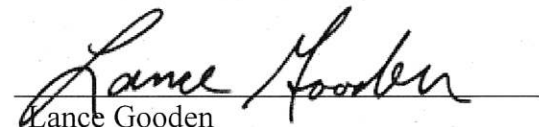
  
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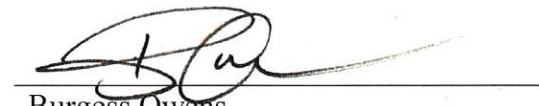
  
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Cc: The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Energy