

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2024

President Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear President Biden and Secretary Granholm,

We write to thank you for pausing the approval of applications for new liquefied natural gas (LNG) to be exported to non-Free Trade Agreement countries while the Department of Energy (DOE) integrates critical considerations into whether these additional exports are in the “public interest,” a determination required by law.

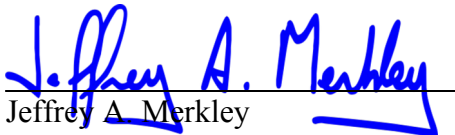
With our allies well-supplied by existing exports, we agree that now is the time to step back and examine the long-term impacts that additional U.S. LNG exports will have on American consumers, industries, and the environment. During this pause, the U.S. is still increasing LNG exports—48 billion cubic feet per day are already authorized for export by the DOE, which is more than triple the current U.S. export capacity. The pause also includes exceptions for national security emergencies. We look forward to working with you as you develop meaningful economic and environmental tests to ensure the DOE public interest determination criteria truly protects the public interest.


We believe the facts are clear: LNG exports harm U.S. households and industrial consumers. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) found that “continued growth in net exports, including from liquified natural gas (LNG) export facilities, will place additional pressure on natural gas prices.” An analysis from Energy Innovation found that “approving pending LNG export terminals would increase expenditures on natural gas by U.S. households, businesses, and industry by \$11-18 billion per year, with the largest burdens falling on low-income households.” The Energy Information Administration (EIA) found that “higher LNG exports create a tighter domestic natural gas market... increasing domestic natural gas prices.” To that end, DOE’s public interest determination for LNG exports should include a test for the effects that export approvals will have on U.S. consumers, particularly low-income households, whose energy burden is typically three times higher.


In addition, DOE should conduct environmental tests as it works to evaluate whether export approvals are in the public interest. Greenhouse gas emissions associated with the LNG supply chain should be evaluated against international and domestic climate targets and examined within the context of existing and proposed LNG export facilities. To do so, DOE should publish greenhouse gas emission estimates for each proposed project. DOE should also ensure that its public interest determinations follow the letter and spirit of President Biden’s Executive Order on Revitalizing our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All and account for cumulative impacts faced by frontline communities—especially those who live near LNG export facilities. At a time when Americans across the country are experiencing ever-harsher climate impacts, DOE must make LNG export decisions that are informed by the climate costs of proposed projects and the threats that LNG exports pose to low-income communities and communities of color.


Once again, thank you for taking this important step to put public health and economic well-being first by pausing the approval of new LNG export authorizations to non-Free Trade Agreement countries. This is an overdue opportunity to examine whether the LNG export boom creates value for the American people or, as we suspect, results in harm while primarily benefitting oil and gas companies that want to ship American LNG overseas for higher profits.

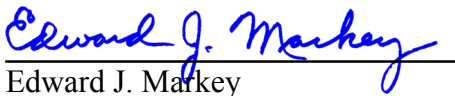
Sincerely,

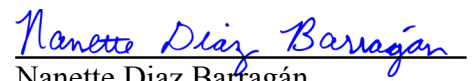
  
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

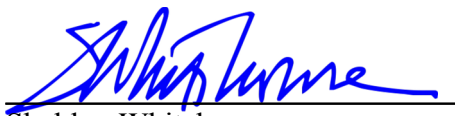
  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress


  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator


  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

  
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

  
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress


  
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

  
Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



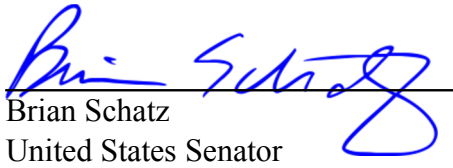
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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



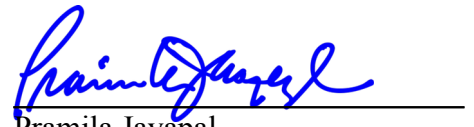
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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



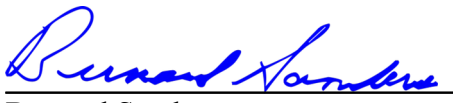
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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress




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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



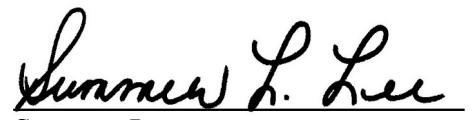
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



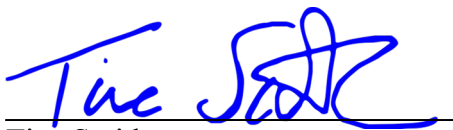
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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



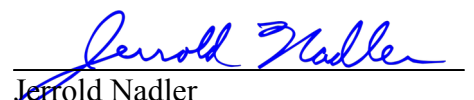
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Summer Lee  
Member of Congress



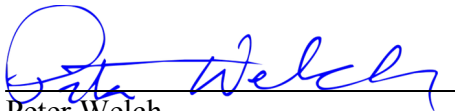
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Tina Smith  
United States Senator




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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
United States Senator



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



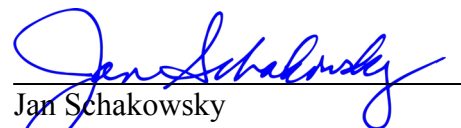
Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



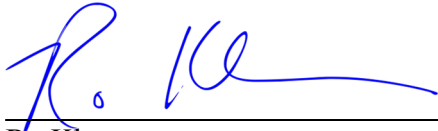
Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



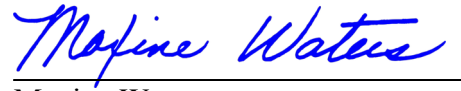
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



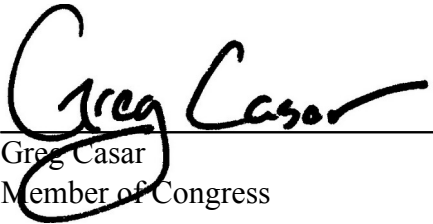
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



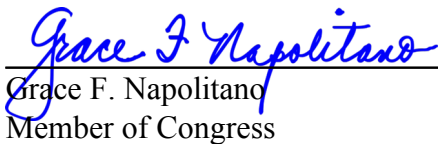
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



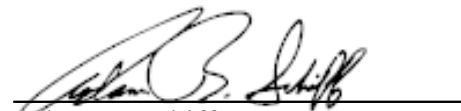
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



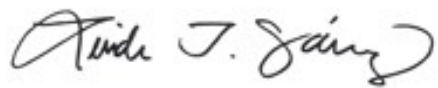
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress




Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



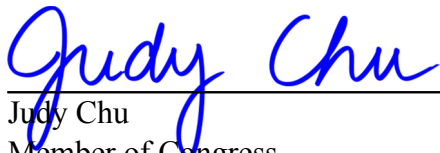
Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



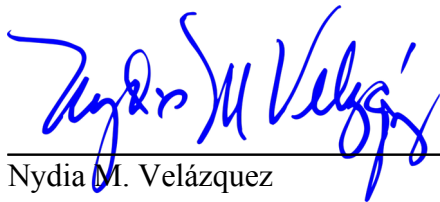
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress




Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



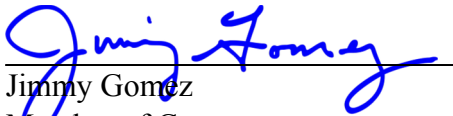
Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress

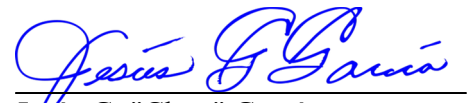



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress





Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

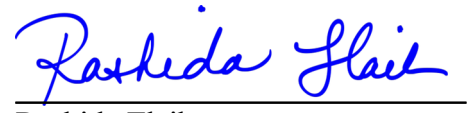
  
Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress


  
Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia  
Member of Congress


  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress


  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

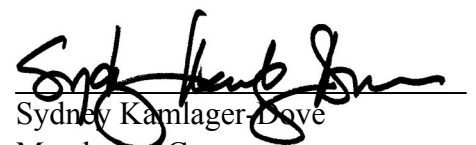
  
David J. Trone  
Member of Congress

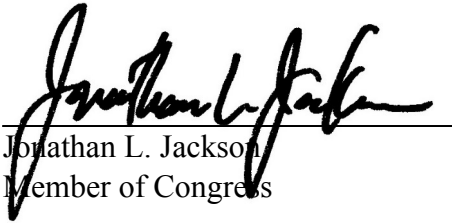
  
Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

  
Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress

  
Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress

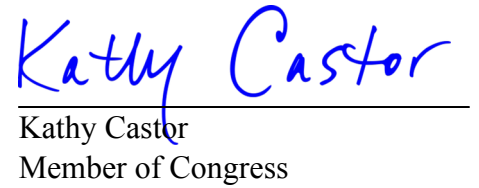
  
Mike Levin  
Member of Congress

  
Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



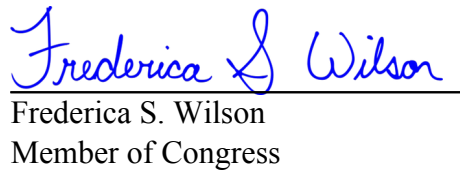
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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



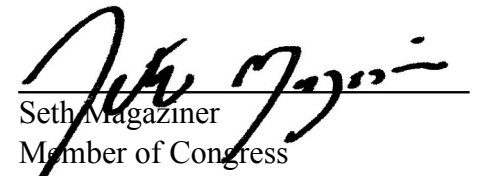
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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



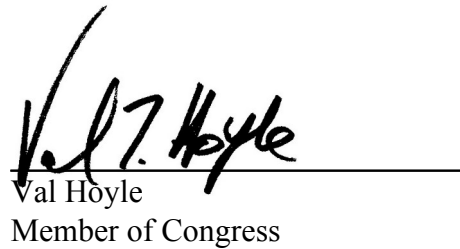
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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



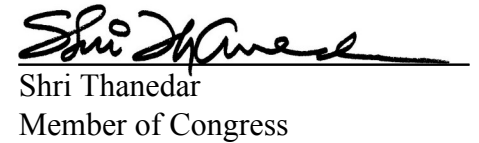
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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



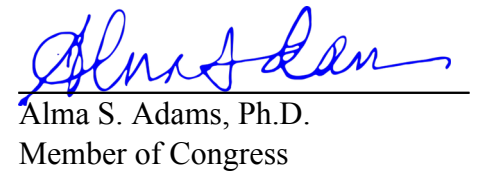
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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



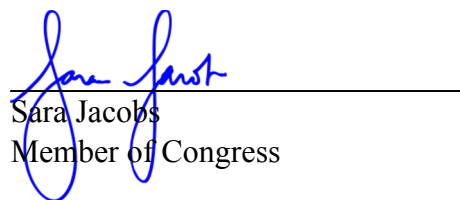
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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



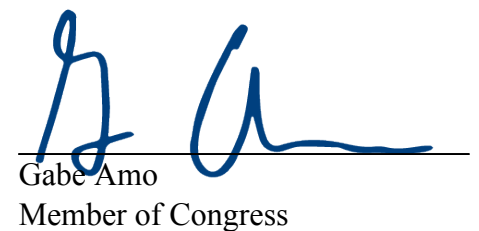
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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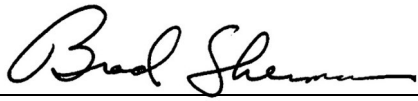
Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress





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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress