



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **IECA Urges Important Changes to Natural Gas Export Permit Process**

As substantial industrial consumers of natural gas and natural gas fired electricity, we urge the Congress to make important changes to the permitting process of waterborne exports of natural gas so that the interests of the public are truly protected. Today, they are not. Six applications have already been filed for approval and many more are expected. Just the six export facilities would significantly increase natural gas demand by about 14 percent of U.S. demand. U.S. demand increased only 3.4 percent in the last ten years.

Natural gas availability and price is a public health, safety, jobs and economic matter. Unlike other traded products, natural gas exports have the potential to impact every citizen of the country. Manufacturing competitiveness, energy independence and security is an issue. Consuming domestically produced natural gas to make value-added products here and ship them offshore is a better alternative for manufacturers and the country.

The Natural Gas Act provisions that guide natural gas export applications were written at a time when our domestic natural gas supply was in question and accelerating LNG imports was the priority. The Natural Gas Act of 1938 never anticipated that the U.S. would potentially export natural gas. For all of the above reasons, it is very timely for the Congress to review existing law and make important changes that are common sense and truly protect the interest of the public.

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*The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading Manufacturing companies with \$700 billion in annual sales and with more than 650,000 employees nationwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through research, advocacy, and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: plastics, cement, paper, food processing, brick, chemicals, fertilizer, insulation, steel, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, aluminum and brewing.*