



PRESS RELEASE

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INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS URGE PRESIDENT OBAMA TO PUT IN PLACE CONSUMER LNG EXPORT SAFEGUARDS

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), representing large industrial consumers of natural gas and electricity, and with over one trillion in annual revenues and 1.4 million employees, released a [letter today](#) to President Barack Obama urging him to take concrete action in three areas related to the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to countries with whom the U.S. has no Free Trade Agreement (non-FTA countries). The request is timely given that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has already either approved or conditionally approved LNG exports equal to the largest LNG exporter in the world, Qatar. Exporting large amounts of LNG puts millions of manufacturing jobs at risk [long-term](#).

“First, we request that the President direct the DOE to refrain from any further approvals of applications to export LNG to non-FTA countries, until the DOE defines the public interest,” said Paul Cicio, President of IECA. “Without a definition of the ‘public interest’ how is it that the DOE can make informed decisions on behalf of the over 72 million consumers of natural gas?” A September 2014 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) entitled, “Federal Approval Process for Liquefied Natural Gas Exports,”¹ indicates that the NGA did not define “public interest.” Nor has the DOE. The letter also asks that the DOE refrain from using the 1984 guidelines for LNG “imports” to inform decisions on LNG “exports.”

Second, that the President makes clear his intention to veto legislation that makes changes to the Natural Gas Act that fast-tracks LNG export application approvals, undermines a public interest determination, and circumvents legal recourse for consumers or automatically approves LNG exports to WTO countries.

Third, as the unexpected drop in crude oil prices illustrates, it is impossible to predict what will happen in future years on either domestic supply or demand, IECA urges the President to have the DOE attach terms and conditions to all export approvals which would protect the domestic consumer in the event that domestic prices sharply rise or if the economy becomes weighed down with greater costs than benefits from LNG exports.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.0 trillion in annual sales, over 2,900 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.4 million employees worldwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through 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: chemical, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, building products, brewing, independent oil refining, and cement.

¹ “Federal Approval Process for Liquefied Natural Gas Exports,” Government Accountability Office, <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/666177.pdf>.