



## PRESS RELEASE

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***Approval of LNG export permits “without delay” to non-Free Trade Agreement (FTA) countries is ill-advised policy and thrusts all of the risks and uncertainties for the next 30 years onto U.S. consumers and manufacturers in exchange for relatively little economic gain***

In a [letter](#) to Congress today, the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) addresses the letters from Congress to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that urge them to approve without delay “all” of the applications to export LNG to non-free trade countries.

Our voice on this issue is unique. Unlike some other major manufacturing-based trade associations, our membership does not include oil, natural gas, coal or electric utilities. Annual revenues of these companies exceed \$1.1 trillion, they operate in over 1,000 facilities nationwide, and employ more than 1.4 million employees worldwide.

Unrestrained or thoughtless timing of the approval of export terminals lock-in unprecedented new natural gas demand for 30 years and thrust all of the risk and uncertainties of the future public policy decisions that impact supply or demand onto domestic consumers and manufacturers – while exporters and other countries benefit. In fact, there is a significant number of pending regulatory and legislative actions that could reduce natural gas production or drive significant new demand.

This public policy deserves considerably more thought and analysis. Once terminals are approved, there is no putting the genie back in the bottle.

“The DOE NERA study illustrates that LNG exports contribute insignificant benefits to the economy, raise energy costs for U.S. consumers, while reducing wages and manufacturing investment under every scenario”, said Paul N. Cicio, president of IECA. “The net benefits of lower natural gas prices that U.S. consumers are receiving today is transferred to those who would produce, export and import the natural gas.”

There is good reason for Congress to encourage, not discourage, the DOE to take the time to examine carefully whether or not approval of each LNG export application is in the public interest. IECA encourages Congress to hold hearings on this issue to ensure that the DOE does this job well.

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*The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.1 trillion in annual sales, over 1,000 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, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, brewing, cement, agricultural equipment, and auto.*