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Manufacturers Urge Chairman Upton to Remove Anti-Consumer Provision from the “North American Energy Infrastructure Act” Discussion Draft

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) sent a [letter](#) today to Chairman Fred Upton that urges him to remove an anti-consumer provision that is in the discussion draft bill entitled the “North American Energy Infrastructure Act.” Section 4 of the legislation would remove U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) authorization responsibilities for LNG exports, thereby eliminating the public interest determination test that is necessary for consideration of applications for shipments to non-free trade countries.

“The public interest determination is more important now than ever before,” said Paul N. Cicio, President of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America. “Domestic demand is rising with explosive growth (+30% by 2016). Because DOE approval of an LNG export application can be for 20-30 years, and because a lot can happen to either domestic consumption or production during that time frame, it is very important that great caution is used when considering an application to export LNG.”

It is sound public policy to ensure that decisions on LNG exports do not impact domestic consumers through higher natural gas and electricity prices. It is also important to note that shipments of LNG to non-free trade countries undermine free trade negotiations that are underway, which would provide U.S. manufacturers with access to those markets.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.2 trillion in annual sales, over 1,500 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.7 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, brewing, and cement.