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The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4986

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4099

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member:

This week the Energy and Commerce Committee will consider H.R. 6, which supports free trade in natural gas by liberalizing U.S. restrictions on the ability of American companies to export this product into global markets. The General Electric Company supports H.R. 6 and encourages your Committee and the Congress to act swiftly to report and to pass this important bill.

Existing barriers to natural gas exports were enacted in a period when U.S. energy production was declining and the nation was importing an increasing share of its energy needs from abroad. The United States today, as result of American innovation and technology, is now the world's leading producer of natural gas. The Natural Gas Act should be amended to reflect this new reality and to allow the U.S. economy to reap the benefits of this abundant resource. H. R. 6 accomplishes this objective.

Most recent data from the U.S. Energy Information Agency make clear that the United States has more than enough natural gas to support exports and to continue to meet domestic demand affordably. According to EIA, domestic natural gas production is projected to rise 56 percent from 2012 to 2040, while consumption is projected to rise 23 percent over that same period. These projections, confirmed by numerous other authoritative studies, show unequivocally that the United States has sufficient natural gas supplies to provide reliable energy for domestic use at competitive prices, while at the same time allowing for reasonable exports of the natural gas. Exporting natural gas abroad will help U.S. balance of payments, create good paying American jobs, and provide significant tax revenue to our local, state, and federal governments.

We would also note that natural gas has significantly lower emissions of a range of pollutants and that encouraging the use of natural gas at home and abroad will result in a significantly healthier environment, particularly when used to generate electricity compared to other fossil fuels.

We urge the Committee to approve H.R. 6 and move the legislation to the full House for consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Dorn
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