



January 23, 2015

The Honorable Bill Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
1710 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Johnson:

On behalf of the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council), I am writing in strong support of the LNG Permitting Certainty and Transparency Act, H.R. 351. Our nationwide membership of small businesses and entrepreneurs would benefit greatly from this important bill, which would vastly improve and accelerate the process for approving the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to countries with which the U.S. does not have free trade agreements.

As you know, thanks to private-sector investment and innovation, there have been significant advancements in hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling. The U.S. has undergone an energy revolution over the past decade. For example, the U.S. is now the world's top combined producer of oil and natural gas. U.S. small businesses and entrepreneurs are at the center of this renaissance.

Expanded domestic energy production has been a rare bright spot in an otherwise weak economic recovery, and that includes being a substantial positive for small businesses. In fact, small businesses not only have benefited from the resulting decrease in oil and natural gas prices due to the expanded production over the past decade, but also from the fact that key energy sectors are overwhelmingly populated by small enterprises.

As noted in the recent SBE Council study "Benefits of Natural Gas Production and Exports for U.S. Small Businesses," employer firms with less than 20 workers accounted for 91.1 percent of firms among oil and gas extraction businesses, 79.8 percent of those among drilling oil and gas wells businesses, 83.3 percent among support for oil and gas operations businesses, 65.5 percent among oil and gas pipeline and related structures construction businesses, and 57.6 percent among oil and gas field machinery and equipment manufacturing businesses. The energy business truly is about small business.

In addition, while the U.S. lost small businesses and jobs over the period examined in the study, both the number of small businesses and job increased in each energy sector examined. Looking ahead, LNG exports will provide the incentives and opportunities to further expand U.S. natural gas production, thereby providing a significant boost to small

business development, job creation and economic growth. Make no mistake, LNG exports is a vital small business issue. Therefore, eliminating the bureaucratic delays that have plagued the LNG export application process via the American Job Creation and Strategic Alliances LNG Act is critical.

Please feel free to contact SBE Council if we can help to further H.R. 351, and thank you for your leadership and support of America's entrepreneurs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kerrigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Kerrigan".

Karen Kerrigan
President and CEO

***301 Maple Avenue West • Suite 100 • Vienna, VA 22180 • (703)-242-5840 • sbecouncil.org •
@SBECouncil***

Protecting Small Business, Promoting Entrepreneurship