

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Markup of H.R. 6, "The Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act"
April 8, 2014**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

North America's growing energy abundance offers a variety of opportunities to create jobs at home, enhance our standing in the world, and supplant the influence of Russia and Iran. Exporting our surplus of natural gas can do all these things, but only to the extent that Washington will allow it to happen. H.R. 6 eliminates the unnecessary red tape currently blocking LNG exports, and I applaud Cory Gardner for introducing this commonsense bill and urge all of my colleagues to support it.

The numbers from the Energy Information Administration are compelling and clear – America has more than enough natural gas to meet domestic needs while also supporting export markets. Exports strengthen the economy, and natural gas exports are no exception.

And by providing an alternative source of natural gas for our allies, we can do a lot of geopolitical good while we boost our economy. The only reason Ukraine and other Eastern European allies rely on Russia for natural gas is that they currently have little choice. H.R. 6 gives them a choice.

Russia's economy has nothing going for it except energy production and exports. Energy competition is something that Vladimir Putin genuinely fears, and U.S. LNG will rein in his influence both now and in the years ahead. Russia just used its might last week by raising its price nearly 50 percent.

While DOE continues to stall on approving applications, the administration has acknowledged the potential for LNG exports to increase global energy security. The U.S. and EU recently issued this joint statement: "The situation in Ukraine proves the need to reinforce energy security in Europe, and we are considering new collaborative efforts to achieve this goal...We welcome the prospect of U.S. LNG exports in the future since additional global supplies will benefit Europe and other strategic partners."

Ukraine may be in the headlines today, but there are a number of other natural gas importing nations that would much prefer to buy energy from the U.S. than be beholden to the likes of Russia or Iran. U.S. LNG exports offer a rare opportunity to do a lot of good for our allies without costing taxpayers anything. In fact, a recent NERA study estimates that LNG exports would put an additional 45,000 Americans back to work. It is both smart diplomacy and smart jobs policy.

But America's newfound energy abundance cannot be put to good use without the right policies in place. Just as the needless five year delay approving Keystone XL is limiting North America's oil potential, DOE's convoluted process for approving LNG export applications is jeopardizing the opportunity to become a natural gas export superpower. The LNG export infrastructure is an important part of the nation's architecture of abundance, but the federal bureaucracy has not kept up with the times.

That is why H.R. 6 is so critical. The *Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act* would eliminate the lengthy delays in approving LNG export facilities. This bill is a win-win for jobs and for the message it sends to the world, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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