

April 8, 2014

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
House Committee on Energy and  
Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ed Whitfield  
Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
2184 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cory Gardner  
U.S. House of Representatives  
213 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Ryan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1421 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Support for H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act**

Dear Subcommittee Chairman Whitfield, Chairman Upton, Representative Gardner and Representative Ryan:

For anyone following the nightly news, it's clear that the situation in Eastern Europe is unstable and unpredictable. According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA) over 60 percent of the natural gas Ukraine consumes each year is imported from Russia, and additional Russian gas flows through Ukraine to other European allies. If those supplies are disrupted again, Ukraine and Eastern Europe will face an energy crisis.

This instability led Ambassadors to Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic to send a letter to House Speaker John Boehner, imploring the United States to export more natural gas to the world market. They wrote that "Energy security is not only a day-to-day issue for millions of citizens in our region, but it is one of the most important security challenges that America's allies face in Central and Eastern Europe today."

The United States has been blessed with an abundant resource of natural gas, and the safe and proven technology to produce it. And with more than enough to support our domestic needs, we are in a position to export liquefied natural gas to America's allies.

But bureaucratic red tape has prevented new export facilities from being approved. Only a handful of permit applications have been approved in more than three years, and more than 20 applications are still stuck in limbo.

In my position as President of the Rockies Chapter of the National Association of Royalty Owners (NARO), I personally know many family farmers and land owners who will benefit from a bigger market for Colorado's natural gas. In fact, the whole state will benefit because oil and natural gas development across the board makes a tremendous contribution to Colorado's economy. For example, a recent study by University of Colorado-Boulder found that the oil and natural gas industry in Colorado contributes

111,000 jobs and provides approximately \$6.5 billion in total labor income. Coloradans from all walks of life and all political affiliations understand that domestic energy production is the foundation for our quality of life and our state's growing economy. But more than that, if additional LNG export terminals are approved, the U.S. will bring stability to the global energy marketplace and make it much harder for bullies like Russian President Vladimir Putin to suppress free nations like Ukraine.

Therefore, I am writing to voice my strong support for the policy approach outlined in H.R. 6, The Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, put forth by Congressmen Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Tim Ryan (D-OH), which calls for expedited approval of LNG exports applications to World Trade Organization (WTO) member countries, including Ukraine.

Sincerely,

*Michelle Smith*

Michelle Smith  
President, National Association of Royalty Owners Rockies Chapter