

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 13, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As members of Congress, we write to request that the Department of Energy (DOE) prioritize and expedite review of projects that will supply liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Ukrainian and Eastern European allies as it recommences the processing of applications for authorization to export LNG to countries where the U.S. does not have existing free trade agreements (non-FTA nations). This request is made with a focus on maintaining both U.S. national security and energy security for our European allies.

DOE performs a critical function when it reviews applications for new LNG exports to non-FTA nations for consistency with the public interest. We must ensure that new exports do not impact energy prices for American consumers and businesses. However, the public interest also requires consideration of the extent to which LNG exports promote geopolitical stability and serve our national security interests. Russia's increasingly aggressive actions towards Ukrainian infrastructure, including electricity and gas storage facilities, highlight the urgent need to assist Ukraine in recovering and rebuilding and for Ukraine to diversify and secure its energy supply. The Administration's recent announcement of over \$800 million towards emergency energy needs in Ukraine to help "repair energy infrastructure damaged in the war, expand power generation, encourage private sector investment and protect energy infrastructure" will be vital to helping Ukraine recover and rebuild.

Equally important will be allowing Ukraine the ability to replace its natural gas supply when its contract with Gazprom expires at the end of this year. We believe that reducing Ukraine's dependence on Russian energy will strengthen Ukraine's energy security and align with the broader strategic goals of diminishing Russia's influence in the region and reducing the leverage that hostile actors like Russia have over our allies.

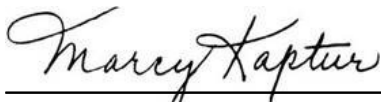
Any delays to providing additional supplies of LNG to Ukraine and our Eastern European allies could jeopardize European energy security and market stability in the long-term. Typical gas offtake contracts are measured in years, not months, and are underpinned by certainty. We should not send mixed signals to our allies who want to eliminate their reliance on Vladimir Putin for good. We believe that the United States must demonstrate its commitment to supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and resilience amidst ongoing threats by prioritizing and expediting review of projects that will supply LNG to Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

Additionally, American LNG is produced with some of the strongest environmental protections globally.¹ Rigorous regulations and oversight ensure that our LNG exports are reliable and adhere to high environmental standards. We believe that these environmental standards, in combination with assistance made available through Inflation Reduction Act programs, such as the GHG Reporting and the Methane Emissions Reduction Programs, will ensure industry and this Administration work to continue reducing emissions from natural gas. By prioritizing and expediting review of LNG projects that will supply LNG to vulnerable nations, we believe DOE would enable our allies to benefit from cleaner LNG sources that have been shown to reduce emissions compared to foreign supplies and coal,² thus supporting their transition to more sustainable energy systems.

The United States has already shown a strong commitment to supporting Ukraine. Extending and expanding support to the energy sector is a natural and necessary step. We must continue to lead by example, showing that we can balance our environmental commitments with the need to provide reliable energy to our European allies. We believe that, if U.S. LNG producers adhere to increasingly stringent environmental standards, then this balance is maintained, promoting both energy security and environmental stewardship.

In conclusion, we believe that prioritizing and expediting review of LNG projects that will supply Ukraine and Eastern Europe will support geopolitical stability and advance the national security interests of the United States. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



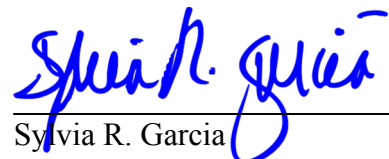
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

¹ In December 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized a rule updating, strengthening, and expanding emissions standards for methane and other harmful air pollutants from both new and existing sources in the oil and natural gas industry. The new methane intensity benchmark adopted for U.S. natural gas production of 0.2 percent is now emerging as the global standard. See <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-standards-slash-methane-pollution-combat-climate>; <https://www.csis.org/analysis/eu-methane-rules-impact-global-lng-exporters>.

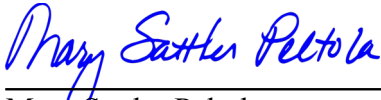
² See "US LNG to Power Asia with Lower Emissions Compared to Coal." Rystad Energy, January 15, 2024. (<https://www.rystadenergy.com/news/us-lng-asia-power-lower-emissions-coal>).



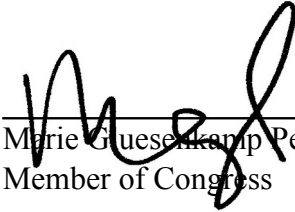
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



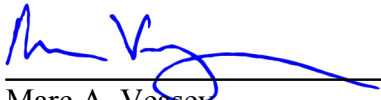
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



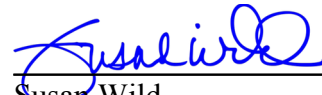
Mary Sattler Peltola
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Susan Wild
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