

Advocates for Cherry Valley · Allamakee County Protectors · Beacon Climate Action · Berks Gas Truth ·
Breast Cancer Action · Californians for Western Wilderness · Catskill Mountainkeeper ·
Catskills Citizens for Safe Energy · Center for Biological Diversity · Center for Effective Government ·
Chesapeake Climate Action Network · Citizen Shale · Citizens Campaign for the Environment ·
Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community · Clean Air Council · Clean Ocean Action ·
Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline · Community Environmental Defense Council ·
Community Environmental Defense Council · Concerned Residents of Carmel & Mahopac ·
Delaware Riverkeeper Network · Earthjustice · Environmental Conservation Committee ·
Environmental Justice Committee, SUNY Cortland · Friends of the Earth · Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition ·
Gas Drilling Awareness for Cortland County · Green America · Hands Across the Border ·
Lehigh Valley Gas Truth · Middlefield Neighbors · Milford Doers · Mountain Watershed Association, Inc. ·
Nature Abounds · New Mexico Sportsmen · Ostego 2000 · Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air ·
People's Oil & Gas Collaborative – Ohio · Residents of Crumhorn Mountain · Sane Energy Project · Sierra Club ·
Surfrider Foundation · TEDX, The Endocrine Disruption Exchange · United for Action ·
United Sludge Free Alliance · Valley Land Alliance · Western Environmental Law Center ·
Western Organization of Resource Councils

June 23, 2014

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our members and supporters, we write today in opposition to H.R. 6, the *Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act*. This bill seeks to expedite liquefied natural gas (LNG) export applications under the guise of creating more stable world energy markets. Instead of accomplishing this goal, H.R. 6 would force the Department of Energy (DOE) to speed through its decision-making process for LNG exports and put both the public interest and our environment at risk. In addition, DOE is already being responsive to concerns and proposed a new approval process that is currently open for public comment. We urge you to let DOE complete its changes without the threat of legislation and oppose this bill.

Currently, proposed LNG export terminals are reviewed by two federal agencies. DOE determines whether exporting natural gas from a given terminal is in the public interest. For exports to countries with which the U.S. has entered into a free trade agreement (FTA), DOE automatically deems the export to be in the public interest and grants the application. For export to non-FTA countries, DOE reviews whether the specific proposal is consistent with the public interest, considering economic impacts, international impacts, security of natural gas supply, and environmental impacts, among other factors. While DOE considers whether to authorize the export of natural gas, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) considers applications to construct and operate the export terminal.

H.R. 6 seeks to undermine DOE's role in approving applications to export natural gas. The bill would force DOE to make a decision on an application to export LNG within 90 days of the close of the public comment period, or within 90 days of the enactment of H.R. 6, whichever comes last. Instead of allowing DOE to continue to base decisions to export LNG on the wide range of potential impacts to people, health, our economy, and the environment, H.R. 6 would force the agency to decide on more than 20 applications in a dangerously compressed timeframe. Given the shortened deadline, DOE could be forced to forego the extensive safety, economic, and environmental reviews that projects of this scale are subject to.

Decisions on LNG export projects will have impacts beyond the site of each terminal. Expanding LNG exports will lead to increased fracking, a process during which drillers blast millions of gallons of chemically treated water into the earth to force oil and gas from underground deposits. Fracking is already being used to extract gas on public lands, near schools and playgrounds, and even in people's backyards. This practice pollutes our air and

our water, and is connected to a number of health problems that people living in gas fields regularly experience. LNG also has tremendous greenhouse gas impacts, because of domestic gas infrastructure's leakage of methane and because of the additional emissions from liquefaction and shipping. DOE is currently studying the effect LNG exports would have on global greenhouse gas emissions, but H.R. 6 could cut short this type of analysis. Ninety days simply isn't enough time to analyze the full range of impacts of an LNG export terminal.

A few key facts:

- Drinking water contaminated: In 2012 alone, fracking operations produced 280 billion gallons of toxic waste across the country. Laced with cancer-causing and even radioactive material, this waste has contaminated drinking water sources from Pennsylvania to New Mexico.
- Forests and parks at risk: From Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, to Mesa Verde in Colorado, to the George Washington National Forest in Virginia, and the Delaware River Basin, our national forests and places near our national parks and drinking water sources are at risk of irreparable damage and contamination from expanded fracking.
- Scope of the problem: At least 141 million acres have already been leased for oil and gas production—equal to the size of California and Florida combined.

Meanwhile, fracking still remains exempt from key provisions of our nation's bedrock environmental laws—including the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and our nation's hazardous waste law, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) -- leaving communities and our environment without the protections they deserve.

In addition, by shortening the time allowed for review of all applications currently in the queue, this bill could have a detrimental effect on both American consumers and American industries that rely on natural gas. A DOE economic study on the impact of 6 to 12 billion cubic feet of LNG exports per day concluded that as more gas is exported, gas prices will go up. Export capacity of approved applications is already approaching that threshold and the current queue, if approved, would quickly eclipse the studied amount. As of April 7, 2014, DOE has granted either conditional or final approval for seven applications to export LNG to non-FTA countries. None of these seven have come online yet. Even the one project that has already commenced construction does not expect to export LNG until 2016. This bill is not needed to speed the ongoing process. In order to truly preserve the public's interest in decisions about whether, when, how and where to export natural gas, DOE must participate.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to oppose H.R. 6.

Sincerely,

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