

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2024

President Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear President Biden and Secretary Granholm,

We write to thank you for pausing the approval of applications for new liquefied natural gas (LNG) to be exported to non-Free Trade Agreement countries while the Department of Energy (DOE) integrates critical considerations into whether these additional exports are in the “public interest,” a determination required by law.

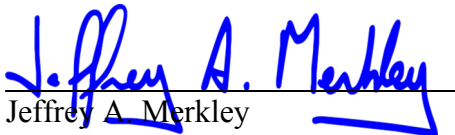
With our allies well-supplied by existing exports, we agree that now is the time to step back and examine the long-term impacts that additional U.S. LNG exports will have on American consumers, industries, and the environment. During this pause, the U.S. is still increasing LNG exports—48 billion cubic feet per day are already authorized for export by the DOE, which is more than triple the current U.S. export capacity. The pause also includes exceptions for national security emergencies. We look forward to working with you as you develop meaningful economic and environmental tests to ensure the DOE public interest determination criteria truly protects the public interest.


We believe the facts are clear: LNG exports harm U.S. households and industrial consumers. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) found that “continued growth in net exports, including from liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities, will place additional pressure on natural gas prices.” An analysis from Energy Innovation found that “approving pending LNG export terminals would increase expenditures on natural gas by U.S. households, businesses, and industry by \$11-18 billion per year, with the largest burdens falling on low-income households.” The Energy Information Administration (EIA) found that “higher LNG exports create a tighter domestic natural gas market... increasing domestic natural gas prices.” To that end, DOE’s public interest determination for LNG exports should include a test for the effects that export approvals will have on U.S. consumers, particularly low-income households, whose energy burden is typically three times higher.


In addition, DOE should conduct environmental tests as it works to evaluate whether export approvals are in the public interest. Greenhouse gas emissions associated with the LNG supply chain should be evaluated against international and domestic climate targets and examined within the context of existing and proposed LNG export facilities. To do so, DOE should publish greenhouse gas emission estimates for each proposed project. DOE should also ensure that its public interest determinations follow the letter and spirit of President Biden’s Executive Order on Revitalizing our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All and account for cumulative impacts faced by frontline communities—especially those who live near LNG export facilities. At a time when Americans across the country are experiencing ever-harsher climate impacts, DOE must make LNG export decisions that are informed by the climate costs of proposed projects and the threats that LNG exports pose to low-income communities and communities of color.


Once again, thank you for taking this important step to put public health and economic well-being first by pausing the approval of new LNG export authorizations to non-Free Trade Agreement countries. This is an overdue opportunity to examine whether the LNG export boom creates value for the American people or, as we suspect, results in harm while primarily benefitting oil and gas companies that want to ship American LNG overseas for higher profits.

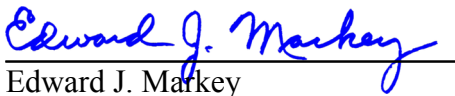
Sincerely,

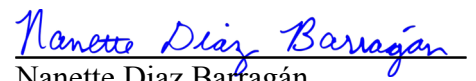

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

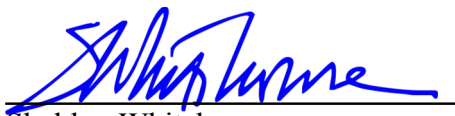

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress


Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

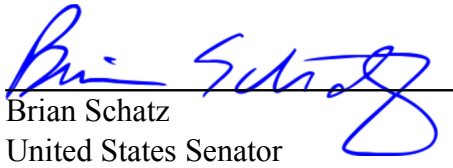

Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



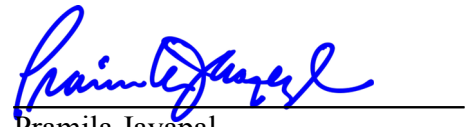
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



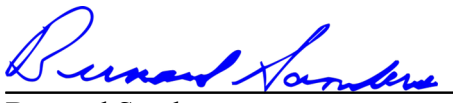
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Brian Schatz
United States Senator




Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



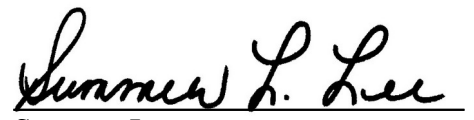
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



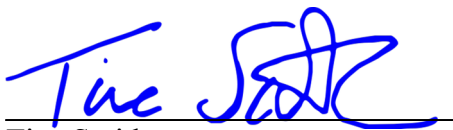
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



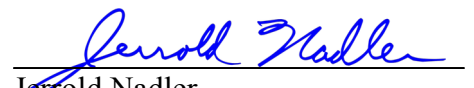
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



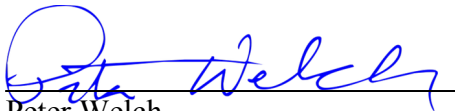
Summer Lee
Member of Congress




Tina Smith
United States Senator



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



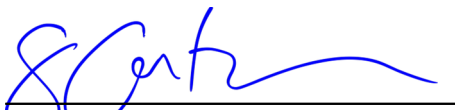
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



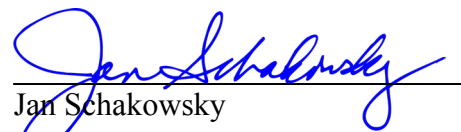
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



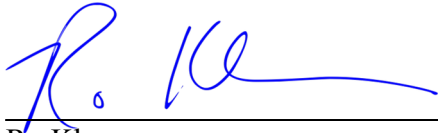
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



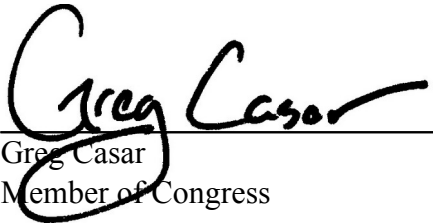
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



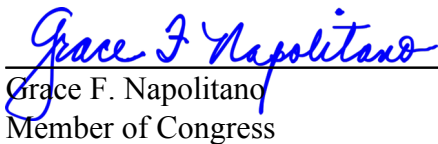
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



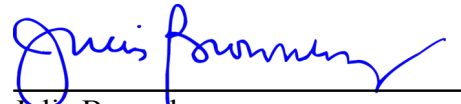
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



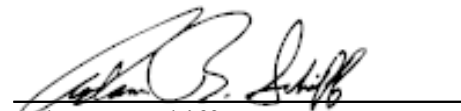
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



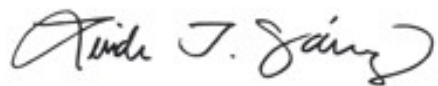
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress




Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



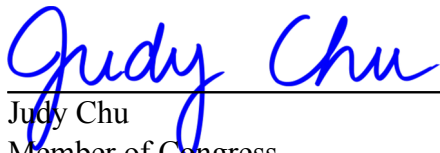
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



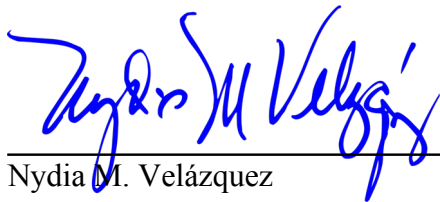
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



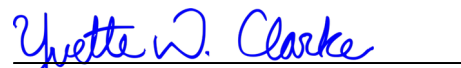
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



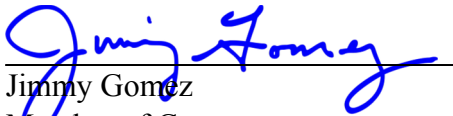
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

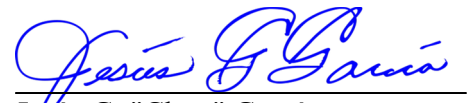



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress





Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

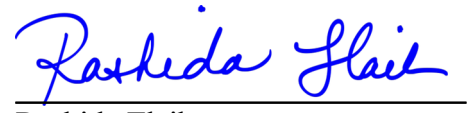

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

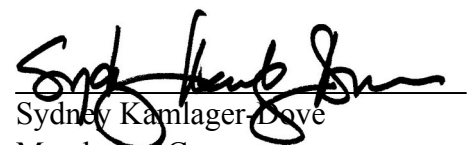

David J. Trone
Member of Congress

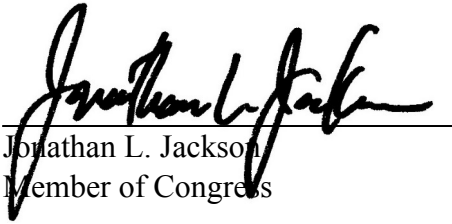

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress


Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress

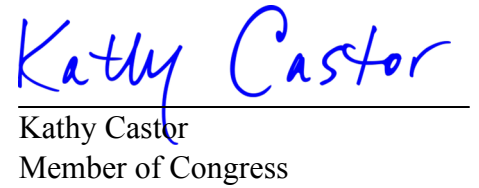

Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress


Mike Levin
Member of Congress

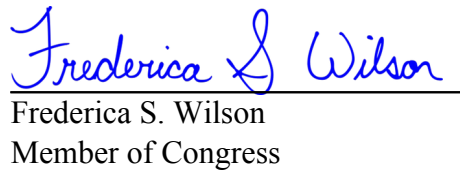

Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



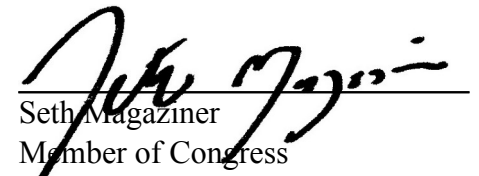
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



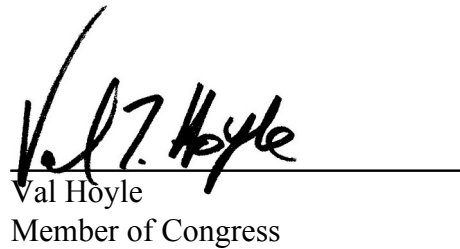
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



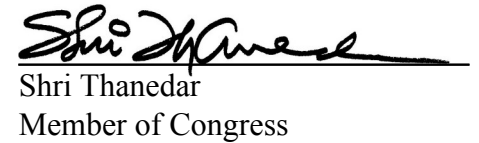
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



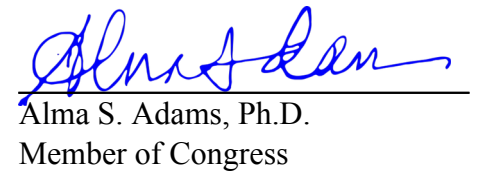
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



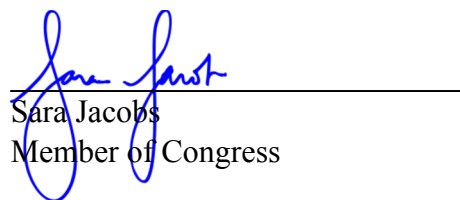
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



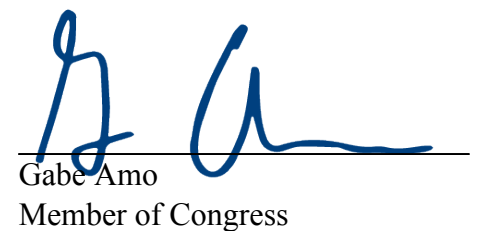
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



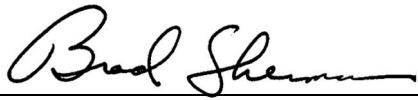
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress