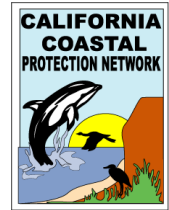


# Smart Planning and Policy for Natural Gas



Stewards of the Earth



S O P I P  
SOUTHERN OREGON PIPELINE INFO PROJECT



LNG Terminal Siting Standards Organization

March 23, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chair  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
*Via Facsimile: 202-224-2852*

Dear Senator Bingaman and Committee Members,

We, the undersigned, are a coalition of environmental organizations, community groups, clean energy advocates, businesses and business associations who have become concerned in the last few years about the rush to site terminals to import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) into the United States. LNG imports concern us for a variety reasons, including but not limited to the safety of the terminals, the prospect of increasing U.S. dependence on a foreign fossil fuel, and the impact that LNG has on the climate. While we have been distressed over the siting process for on-shore LNG terminals under the 2005 Energy Policy Act, we are heartened by the change of leadership within FERC. We are writing to urge you to take up this matter in Congress.

Specifically, we would like to see the following legislation:

- **End the federal pre-emption for LNG terminal siting.** As of 2006, the important decision of where to site an LNG terminal has been under the authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). FERC has demonstrated disregard for local concerns over these projects, and has operated under a philosophy of permitting projects whether or not there is proof the project is necessary. In addition, FERC currently does not have authority over offshore LNG proposals, creating an uneven playing field between the permitting processes for on-shore and off-shore proposals located in state waters. Also, FERC is not abiding by industry-recommended best practices as detailed by “Site Selection and Design for LNG Ports and Jetties” (SIGGTO) in their permitting decisions. The operating principle of FERC has been that the market will sort out which of the projects are best suited to serve the energy grid. According to newly appointed FERC chair Jon Wellinghoff, “Markets are important and markets should be allowed to work, but there does need to be some assessment of the need for these facilities prior to imposing the burden of them on communities.” We agree with this statement, and believe it should be codified by returning LNG siting decisions back into the hands of individual states as they were prior to the implementation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
- **Natural gas export ban.** Recently, the boom of natural gas production in North America has led to increased interest in exporting U.S natural gas onto the world market as LNG. We believe this is a dangerous trend that works against U.S. national security, ratepayer interests, and grid reliability. It makes no sense to claim that the U.S. needs to import LNG while at the same time exporting it. This is clearly the result of profiteering and speculating on a commodity, not any

analysis of what is in the public interest. We need U.S. natural gas to stay in the U.S. Whether it's used to replace much dirtier coal plants, or used as a back-up for renewable facilities, our finite supply of natural gas will be a critical component of our economy for the foreseeable future. We therefore ask that legislation include a ban on exporting U.S. natural gas, excluding long-standing contracts to supply LNG to Japan from Alaska.

We believe legislation with these mandates will create many benefits. Local communities will be protected from unnecessary and dangerous facilities. Ratepayers will be protected from price spikes fed by speculators who create perceptions of false natural gas shortages. The United States will avoid unnecessarily tying itself to the global LNG trade. And energy security and independence will be ensured by natural gas staying within our borders.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact:

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**Sincerely,**

**(Organizations)**

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