



February 8, 2024

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
Chair, Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy Natural  
Resources  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso,

The Distribution Contractors Association (DCA) represents contractors, suppliers and manufacturers who provide distribution construction services including installation, replacement and rehabilitation of natural gas distribution systems as well as gas transmission pipelines in communities across the country. DCA strongly opposes the U.S. Department of Energy's decision to freeze consideration of U.S. LNG export license applications and we encourage the agency to rescind it.

It is clear to most in the energy industry that the America cannot achieve its clean energy ambitions without natural gas production, gas-fired electric generation and a large expansion of the natural gas pipeline network. DCA members work to build, replace and repair gas pipeline systems across the country, and we believe that the increasing hostility regarding the important role that natural gas plays in providing a sustainable source of American energy is largely misplaced.

The Department of Energy's (DOE) pause on processing export applications freezes out investment commitments for the several proposed terminals with export licenses pending DOE approval and sends a strong and harmful signal to the financial community regarding permitting risks for many more terminals already licensed but not yet financed or under construction. Other already-licensed terminals now under construction also face the same unknown risk of uncertain investment.

The influence of natural gas exports has effectively driven innovation up and down the natural gas supply chain, leading to lower costs to consumers in the domestic market, as well as to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions during production, transmission and processing. The bottom line is that policy that would reduce or eliminate further growth opportunities from exports will dampen investment in innovation.

Therefore, DCA encourages approval of all pending LNG export licenses, as well as rescission of the order pausing the processing of applications for LNG export licenses by the Department of Energy. We thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Darden", written over a horizontal line.

Rob Darden  
Executive Vice President