

RECEIVED

By Docket Room at 10/06/2023 8:00 a.m.



October 5, 2023

Via email (fergas@hq.doe.gov)

U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34)
Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement
Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management
Forrestal Building
Room 3E-056
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585
Attn: Mrs. Amy Sweeney

**Re: Docket No. 23-87-LNG
Lake Charles Exports, LLC Application**

Dear Mrs. Sweeney:

On behalf of the members of the GAIN coalition, I am writing to express our support for Lake Charles Exports, LLC's new application for long-term authorization to export LNG to non-Free Trade Agreement countries and request for expedited consideration from the existing Lake Charles Terminal. It is vital for the economic well-being of Louisiana and the country as a whole that the Department of Energy approves Lake Charles Exports application as soon as possible.

This project will have a significant positive impact on job creation and economic output for the state of Louisiana over the multiple-year construction period. This project will create nearly 3,000 estimated construction jobs during peak construction and billions of dollars of overall construction expenditures. Once completed, the Lake Charles facility will generate hundreds of high-quality jobs for the region related to LNG operations, tug operations, and ancillary services. The export of LNG from the existing Lake Charles Terminal will provide a much-needed boost to Louisiana's local and regional economy through resource development, an enhanced tax base, direct and indirect job creation, and economic activity. The state of Louisiana will benefit greatly from the creation of these high-paying jobs attributable to the Lake Charles LNG project.

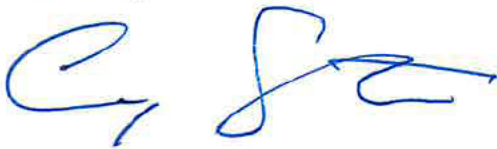
Investing in energy infrastructure in Louisiana also has global implications for energy security. Thanks to Louisiana energy leadership, the United States exported more natural gas in the first six months of 2023 than any previous 6-month period. Louisiana's LNG exports were a lifeline for our allies when Russia invaded Ukraine in February of last year. At the time,

European countries were heavily reliant on Russian natural gas, and it was only due to the United States, and specifically Louisiana, stepping up that our allies could protect their energy security through the conflict.

Given that the Lake Charles LNG export facility will utilize significant existing infrastructure at the Lake Charles Terminal, environmental impacts from the construction of the export facility will be limited. I am heartened by the extensive environmental review already completed by the Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. These stewards of the environment have concluded that this project complies with applicable Federal environmental laws and that, taking into account the environmental conditions that Lake Charles Exports has agreed to follow, this project will satisfy acceptable and prudent environmental standards.

I strongly encourage you to approve Lake Charles Exports application as soon as possible in order to allow this long overdue project to proceed and benefit Louisiana. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Stevens', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Craig Stevens

Spokesman for the GAIN Coalition and former senior advisor to U.S. Energy Secretary Sam Bodman: