Office of the Governor State of Louisiana

John Bel Edwards Governor



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November 3, 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 **Attn: Mrs. Amy Sweeney** Forrestal Building Room 3E-056 1000 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20585 RECEIVED

By Docket Room at 11/06/2023 5:17 p.m.

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

Dear Mrs. Sweeney:

On behalf of Louisiana, I am writing to express our unequivocal 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 the region, the state of Louisiana, and the country as a whole that the Department of Energy approve 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. It is my understanding that there will be nearly 3,000 estimated construction jobs during peak construction and billions of dollars of overall construction expenditures. And, once completed, the project 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.

Louisianans in the region, their families, and the state of Louisiana will benefit greatly by the creation of these high paying jobs attributable to the Lake Charles LNG project. Although new jobs are first and foremost, they cannot come at the expense of our state's environment. Given U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34) November 3, 2023 Page 2

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 our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely John Bel Edwards Governor