



U.S. Chamber of Commerce



January 26, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As business organizations representing the United States, Europe, and Japan, we write to express our concern with the recent announcement pausing the Department of Energy's (DOE) review and approval of liquefied natural gas export license applications to non-free trade agreement (FTA) countries.

As you know, non-FTA countries include Japan and the European Union, both of which are heavily dependent on imports of U.S. LNG for energy security. We urge you to reconsider this decision in light of the unique and vital role of American natural gas in meeting the critical energy security and Paris Agreement objectives that our nations share.

With respect to security of supply, the critical importance of U.S. LNG in helping Europe and Japan diversify away from dependence on Russia is well understood. In the aftermath of Russia's unwarranted invasion of Ukraine, these crucial supplies helped the people of Europe and Japan heat and power their homes, factories, and businesses at a time of great need and uncertainty. Further diversification is necessary, and with numerous forecasts projecting global natural gas demand to rise well into the next decade, additional supplies of LNG will be needed to supply world markets.

We know this demand can be met in a manner that continues progress on emissions reductions. In December, nearly 200 nations that convened at the United Nations climate conference (COP 28) agreed to the Dubai Consensus, which states that "transitional fuels can play a role in facilitating the energy transition while ensuring energy security" — a clear reference to the potential for natural gas to displace higher emitting fuels. Moreover, we strongly support the global effort to reduce methane

emissions that will lower the greenhouse gas emissions footprint of the natural gas that we produce, transport and consume around the world.

Ensuring the world's leading democracies have access to stable and secure supplies of energy is a geopolitical and economic imperative, while cleaner natural gas provides the environmental opportunity to continue progress on emissions reductions. For these reasons, we strongly urge the U.S. government avoid further delay in review of LNG export license applications to non-FTA countries. To do otherwise would send a troubling signal to allies, investors, and energy markets that could reverberate for many years to come.

We are eager to assist your administration on advancing our shared goals of energy security, economic well-being, and environmental sustainability and stand ready to provide additional information as needed.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
BusinessEurope
Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)

Cc:

The Honorable Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister, Japan
The Honorable Ursula von der Leyen, President, European Union
The Honorable Charles Michel, President, European Council
The Honorable Anthony Blinken, U.S. Secretary of State
The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Secretary of Energy
Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Ali Zaidi, Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor
John Podesta, Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation