

November 1, 2024

Secretary Granholm
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,
CC: President Biden, Vice President Harris
Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation

We, community members of Pennsylvania, are deeply concerned about the buildout of liquefied methane gas, known as LNG, export facilities and the serious threats they pose to public health, safety, the economy, the climate, and our country's national security.

We are advocates and residents of the communities in the Commonwealth that would be some of the most impacted if the fossil fuel industry continues with an unchecked and limitless LNG buildout. Our message is clear: The Biden-Harris Administration's pause on new LNG was a significant first step, but the Department of Energy (DOE) must go further to ensure the public interest, the health and safety of our communities, the strength of our economy, and the future of our country are prioritized going forward.

The United States is already the world's [leading producer and exporter of LNG](#). The DOE's pause and assessment will not change this fact, as existing facilities can and will continue to operate. But, it is vital to understand what the status quo means for Pennsylvania families and our nation.

The LNG export facilities that have sprung up in recent years extract gas by fracking, liquefying it, and then exporting it overseas. If the DOE allows LNG exports to continue unchecked, these projects will proceed without critical reviews of their environmental, economic, and [public health impacts](#). Expanded fracking subjects our communities to increased health risks and exacerbates the already unjust environmental burdens placed on us. These concerns are reflected in a September 2024 poll where over [90% of Pennsylvanians](#) support stricter regulations on fracking companies and their operations. We know fracking for gas will continue to contaminate our air, groundwater, and surface water in Pennsylvania, which has serious health effects such as [childhood cancer and congenital disabilities](#). Even more concerning, recent reporting [has revealed](#) that the health and safety risks around LNG export terminals are mostly hidden from the public due to outdated federal regulations that have allowed the industry to operate in secrecy.

LNG exports not only threaten our health but also drive up our energy bills. The dangers and costs of the LNG exports that have been driving fossil fuel industry profits are extensive and cannot be captured by merely considering the impact on the industry's bottom line. Instead, we urge you to consider the bottom line for Pennsylvania families. Currently, as a result of exporting LNG, domestic [consumers will face billions in higher energy costs](#), with household energy bills in Pennsylvania estimated to be [8% higher](#) as a result. As the LNG industry eyes our communities as the home for more fossil fuel pipelines and associated gas infrastructure, we implore you to take a hard look at what these projects mean for our

community's bottom line and the costs that our families will bear. It is our wallets that will take yet another hit during a time when it's already difficult to meet the costs of our most essential needs.

The LNG export buildout also undermines the progress that the Biden-Harris Administration has made to protect [Environmental Justice](#) communities. With LNG export facilities sited primarily in low-income communities and communities of color, their impacts harm communities already overburdened by pollution from the oil and gas industry and extreme weather driven by climate change.

Despite opposition from certain judges and elected officials, the DOE must seize this opportunity to put the public's needs ahead of fossil fuel industry interests. This means not making decisions on any new LNG exports until the analysis used in making the Public Interest Determination (PID) is updated and backed by the most recent scientific information and properly accounts for the economic, climate, and environmental justice costs of the LNG export buildout. We urge the DOE to ensure all data used in the studies that underlie the PID includes:

- Comprehensive data on lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from existing and proposed LNG export facilities;
- A robust Environmental Justice analysis of the cumulative impacts of LNG exports and associated infrastructure necessary for LNG to function, including the full life cycle impacts of fossil gas from cradle to grave;
- An assessment of the economic damages caused by LNG export facilities to nearby communities and to other communities across the country.

The Administration's pause was a clear win for our communities, but more is needed to ensure that this important issue is neither forgotten about nor handled in a way that results in the fossil fuel industry's interests being prioritized over people's health and safety and the environment. We call on the next administration to carry on what President Biden started and ensure that decisions made on LNG exports fully consider the true social, environmental, and economic costs. Once the DOE concludes its studies and public engagement period, we have every reason to believe that the evidence will show that the DOE approving more LNG exports is not in the public interest.

We urge your immediate attention to this critical matter and look forward to your response. As leaders entrusted with our safety, we ask you to prioritize our health, our communities, and our future over the interests of the LNG export industry.

Sincerely,

Original Signatories

Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living (CRCQL)
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Clean Air Council

PennFuture
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania
Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter
Clean Air Action Fund

Organizational Signatories

Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN)
Beaver County Peace Links
Better Path Coalition
Breathe Easy Susquehanna County
Breathe Project
Center for Coalfield Justice
Cherokee Concerned Citizens
Citizens to Preserve Ligonier Valley
Climate Conversation Brazoria County
Climate Reality Project Pittsburgh and SWPA Chapter
Climate Reality Project: Susquehanna Valley PA Chapter
Communitopia
Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
Del-Chesco United for Pipeline Safety
Environmental Health Project
FracTracker Alliance
GreenBeams
Greenfire Coalition Writers' Forum
Hundredfold Farm Cohousing Community
Intertwined faith community
Jewish Earth Alliance- PA
Lycoming County Progressives
Move Past Plastic (MPP)
Make the Road Pennsylvania
Marple Safe Coalition
Mountain Watershed Association
NEPA Green Coalition
No False Solutions PA
North Braddock Residents For Our Future
Pennsylvania Bipartisan Climate Initiative
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
Philadelphia Rent Control Coalition
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Plastic Pollution Coalition
POWER Interfaith
Project Coffee House

Protect PT
Quittapahilla Watershed Association
Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh (RP3)
Reimagine Beaver County
Responsible Decarbonization Alliance (RDA)
Save Our Streams, PA
Save our Susquehanna
Three Rivers Waterkeeper
UpstreamPgh
Watchdogs of Southeastern PA (WaSepa)
West Whiteland Residents for Pipeline Safety
Westmoreland Marcellus Citizens Group
Zero Waste Ithaca

Marcus Hook Area Neighbors for Public Health
Moms Clean Air Force, Pennsylvania Chapter
Earthworks
Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC)
Food & Water Watch Pennsylvania
Make the Road PA
People Over Petro Coalition
Sunrise Movement Pittsburgh
Watersheds of South Pittsburgh
Breathe Project
sustainlv.org
Move Past Plastic (MPP)
Allegheny County Clear Air Now (ACCAN)
TIAA-Divest!
Protecting Our Waters
Greenfirecoalition Writers' Forum
NEPA Green Coalition
Camp White Pine
Berks Gas Truth
Third Act Pennsylvania
Move Past Plastic (MPP)
Bucks Environmental Action