



August 2, 2017

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the LNG exporters that we represent, let me express our appreciation for the “all-in” support for U.S. LNG exports that you, Vice President Pence, Cabinet officials, and others in the administration have shown here in the United States and around the globe.

In that vein, we were pleased to learn late today that you have now officially nominated four highly-qualified individuals — Neil Chatterjee, Robert Powelson, Richard Glick, and Kevin McIntyre — to serve on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This is extremely good news.

Recent news reports have indicated that the Senate was waiting to receive the Glick nomination (at least) before voting on Mr. Chatterjee and Mr. Powelson. Because of your action today, there may still be time for such votes before the Senate adjourns for the August recess. Thank you very much!

This matter is important to U.S. LNG export project sponsors because the absence of a FERC quorum has created an agency backlog that — if left unaddressed — could negatively impact the timeline for a dozen pending LNG export project applications. All of these projects are at or near the formal FERC review stage and thus could be ripe for decision in a 12-15 month time period beginning in the first quarter of 2018.

Although FERC is an independent agency, we urge your administration to find other ways to help FERC speed up its LNG export approval process, including directing other federal agencies to be more “cooperative” during FERC’s environmental reviews. This is one area where the “ship really does hit the water” with respect to LNG permitting and the “cooperating” federal departments and agencies can surely “lend an oar” to the effort.

Mr. President, thank you once again for your administration’s vigorous support for U.S. LNG exports. This nascent industry is already supporting thousands of jobs in the United States, boosting the national economy, and bringing environmental, economic, and geostrategic benefits to America’s friends, allies, and global trading partners. Let’s keep the momentum going!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred H. Hutchison", followed by a horizontal line.

Fred H. Hutchison, Executive Director