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The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

For the first time in generations, the U.S. is an energy superpower. Natural gas production has increased by 43 percent since 2005, helping to transform America's energy outlook from one of scarcity to one of abundance. Fully harnessing this economic opportunity will require smart, 21st century energy policies that promote our ability to grow as an energy leader. Toward that end, the American Petroleum Institute thanks the committee for holding a hearing on S. 33, the LNG Permitting Certainty and Transparency Act, and offers its support for this important legislation sponsored by Senators John Barrasso (R-WY) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM).

According to an ICF International study, liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports could contribute up to 452,000 jobs to the United States, add up to \$74 billion in annual GDP growth, and generate as much as \$40 billion in government revenue between 2016 and 2035. Even non-producing states could see economic gains as high as \$2.6 billion to \$5 billion due to demand for steel, cement, equipment and other goods used in natural gas development. A related study, commissioned by the Department of Energy in 2012, projected net economic gains across all export-level scenarios, and an update to the report by NERA Economic Consulting specifies "the greater the level of exports, the greater the benefits."

These studies also confirm that higher export levels stimulate even more production, dispelling unsubstantiated arguments that LNG exports could jeopardize affordable energy supplies here at home. As stated in a 2014 Columbia University study, U.S. LNG exports "will allow for more competition in the global market, putting downward pressure on prices and giving gas-importing nations more leverage with traditional suppliers."

LNG exports represent a critical opportunity to harness the power of America's energy revolution. By strengthening our role in the global market, we can accelerate the flow of benefits to consumers in the form of reliable and affordable energy, to workers in the form of thousands of new jobs, and to U.S. citizens in the form of greater energy security. That is why support for natural gas exports is strong across the country and why bipartisan legislation like S. 33 is critical to our economic future.

We applaud the work your committee is doing to make LNG exports a priority and we urge you to act quickly on this important legislation. Now is the time to build our energy infrastructure, expand exports, and lock-in the economic and geopolitical opportunities that our energy revolution has created.

Please contact me if we may be of any assistance with your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Louis Finkel