

Multi-Group letter to President Biden: Reject LNG for good!

Following the Biden administration's announcement that they would be pausing LNG exports, please join us by urging your group to sign this letter seeking to achieve a full rejection of LNG and other oil & gas infrastructure. Click on this [highlighted link](#) to sign the letter.

This has special significance in coastal Georgia, where the Elba Island LNG export facility is located, one of the region's most dangerous sources of heat-trapping emissions, including untallied volumes of methane leaks that can far worsen the damages caused by rising temperatures.

The letter is part of an effort to both stop LNG exports in the US and the import of US LNG in Europe, Asia, and across the world. Organizations from around the world are welcome to sign.

Among signers of the letter to be submitted on February 23, 2024 are Food & Water Watch, Oil Change International, Frack Action, Healthy Gulf, Vessel Project of Louisiana, For a Better Bayou, Center for Biological Diversity, Earthworks, Friends of the Earth U.S., and the [Center for a Sustainable Coast](#).

More about LNG and climate emissions

"We're definitely under-accounting natural gas's contribution to global warming relative to coal," says Desirée Plata, the Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Director of the MIT Methane Network. Official government calculations of natural gas's contribution to warming don't account for leaks, says Plata. And in fact, she says, if methane emissions from natural gas are on the high end of current estimates, natural gas may be no improvement over coal at all. From MIT's [Climate Portal](#).

<https://forms.gle/sFVbwrHr7jRstz7B8>

Dear President Biden,

As organizations from the United States and around the world, we applaud your decision to halt pending approvals of liquified natural gas (LNG) exports to non-free trade countries to review their impacts to climate, economics, and national security as part of the public interest determination. As you rightly noted, "[the climate crisis is the existential threat of our time](#)." **We call on you to expand the pause to include stopping all LNG and related fossil fuel infrastructure permits across all U.S. federal agencies and institute a robust and democratic public comment period as part of the Department of Energy public interest review.**

For too long, the fossil fuel industry has had a destructive grip on our governments. Since at least the 1970s, they have known about the harms of fossil fuels and dangers of climate change, and yet they covered it up. Government action has promoted this industry, including over the past decade when U.S. federal policy led to a fivefold increase in U.S. gas exports, fueled by a dramatic increase in fracking and a massive build out of infrastructure. In a short period, the United States went from exporting almost no LNG in 2016 to becoming the world's top LNG exporter. The fossil fuel industry's proposed LNG buildout would be astronomical, further jeopardizing our climate and communities. Taken together, if the pending projects were approved, gas exports would rise to 60% of current U.S. gas production, with an emissions impact of LNG exports from the United States alone exceeding that of the entire European Union.

Any new development of LNG and associated infrastructure is antithetical to your recognition of climate change as an existential threat to all of us, and your commitment to environmental justice. The best evidence demonstrates that LNG exports are at minimum 24% worse than coal for our climate, given the methane and other emissions associated with the entire life cycle of drilling, fracking, and then liquefaction and transportation.

Beyond the disastrous climate impacts, the risks and impacts of LNG to public health, the environment, and energy costs are considerable, as your administration has rightly noted. Indeed, there is extensive documentation of health, environmental, and public safety impacts of fracking and LNG, with harms ranging from increasing risk of respiratory illness, cancers, increasing infant mortality, and more. Many of these impacts and harms disproportionately affect Black, Brown, Indigenous and low-income frontline communities. Additionally, exporting LNG serves to increase domestic energy costs.

Residents of Europe and Asia — where most U.S. LNG is set to be exported to — neither need nor want to see an expansion of LNG imports from the United States. The high climate impacts of LNG are contradictory to the work European and Asian nations are doing to reduce emissions and transition to renewable energy. Europeans struggle with an unparalleled LNG import infrastructure boom expanding overcapacities that are not needed, destroying the local environment and burdening energy consumers who indirectly pay for gas infrastructure. Furthermore, countries in these regions — including many European countries which have banned fracking — do not want to perpetuate the public health harms wrought by drilling, fracking, and processing in communities across the United States. People around the world are also impacted by U.S. LNG expansion and its impact on the climate. Communities in the Global South face impacts not just from expanded fossil fuel pollution, but also disproportionate impact from the climate disasters that fossil fuel expansion is exacerbating.

While the pause in Department of Energy approvals is needed and welcome, it is important to recognize that without further action from your administration, gas exports in the United States are projected to nearly double by 2035. Further, there are other permits pending with a litany of federal agencies for LNG export projects and related infrastructure. These include the Environmental Protection Agency, Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, among others, as their processes will continue even while the Department of Energy pause is in place. It makes no sense to halt LNG on one hand and advance it with the other. All permits for new LNG and related infrastructure should be rejected.

Further, the evidence of the significant harms of LNG exports is overwhelming. Any objective process that looks at the totality of the evidence would conclude that no export project is in the public interest. We, therefore, urge you to require that the Department of Energy, as part of its review, institute a broad and inclusive democratic process with public hearings and a comment period that allows for and empowers the voices of frontline communities, the scientific community, environmental advocates, economists, health professionals, Tribal governments, elected officials, business leaders and concerned individuals.

We appreciate your recent halt to the Department of Energy's LNG approvals. Now, as we face ever worsening climate impacts, we implore you to stand firm, follow the science, let the voices of the public be heard, and direct all federal agencies to stop all pending LNG exports and fossil fuel infrastructure now.