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January 28, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

***Re: Manufacturers Urge Immediate Suspension of Spot LNG Exports to Reduce Natural Gas and Electricity Prices and Ensure Reliability***

Dear Secretary Wright:

We urgently request the Secretary to use authority granted to the U.S. Department of Energy under Section 16 of the Natural Gas Act to take action to suspend all spot LNG export volume to provide U.S. consumers price relief and reliability. This request is consistent with President Trump's "America First" policy. The price of natural gas has exceeded the highest level in 25 years and electricity prices are soaring. Making things even worse, sufficient pipeline capacity is not available for the manufacturing sector as described in our December 23, 2025 letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.<sup>1</sup>

Prices of natural gas and electricity are so high that many manufacturers cannot produce products at a profit and are shutting down. This will result in significant supply chain disruptions and inflation. Reducing LNG exports increases supply for domestic consumers and will provide price relief.

Inadequate pipeline capacity also directly impacts our ability to cogenerate power at a time when more, not less electric generation is needed. Not generating our own power means that we will have to purchase power from the grid, making electricity reliability even more fragile.

During times of inadequate supply, homeowners, utilities, and LNG exporters are getting natural gas while manufacturers are curtailed. The problem gets worse every year for manufacturers. To be clear, what we are describing in this letter is an ongoing winter season problem. Because there is inadequate pipeline capacity to deliver needed supply, manufacturers are required to reduce consumption to a minimum (just enough to keep our

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<sup>1</sup> FERC Request to Open a Section 5 "Show Cause" Proceeding to Increase Natural Gas Pipeline Capacity for Manufacturing, December 23, 2025, [https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/12.23.25\\_IECA-FERC-Request-for-Rulemaking\\_Pipeline-Capacity-for-Manufacturing\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/12.23.25_IECA-FERC-Request-for-Rulemaking_Pipeline-Capacity-for-Manufacturing_FINAL.pdf)

equipment warm) to serve human needs requirements that can cost tens of millions of dollars per day per facility.

The shutdown of coal-fired power plants has made the situation worse as utilities still need dispatchable peaking capacity and are switching to natural gas generation, further consuming what little pipeline capacity was available to manufacturers.

The U.S. urgently needs more natural gas pipeline capacity to expand domestic manufacturing. The Administration and Congress must understand that this is no less important than having an efficient interstate highway system. We stand ready to support such efforts. In the meantime, until there is adequate pipeline capacity, we urge you to consider IECA's "America First LNG Inventory Policy"<sup>2</sup> as a policy solution to insulate U.S. consumers from higher prices.

IECA is not opposed to LNG exports, but America must come first. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio

*Paul N. Cicio*

President & CEO

cc: The Honorable Doug Burgum, U.S. Department of the Interior  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce

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*The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.3 trillion in annual sales, over 12,000 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.9 million employees. One hundred percent of IECA members are manufacturing companies whose competitiveness is largely determined by the cost and reliability of natural gas and electricity. IECA's sole mission is to reduce and avoid energy costs and increase energy reliability through advocacy in Congress and regulatory agencies, such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, consumer goods, building products, automotive, independent oil refining, and cement.*

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<sup>2</sup> America First LNG Inventory Policy, [https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/01.28.26\\_America-First-LNG-Inventory-Policy-To-Insulate-US-Consumers-from-LNG-Export-Impacts\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/01.28.26_America-First-LNG-Inventory-Policy-To-Insulate-US-Consumers-from-LNG-Export-Impacts_FINAL.pdf)