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December 10, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: H.R. 1949, the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025” is Inconsistent with President Trump’s Pledge to Put America First

Dear Leaders Thune and Schumer:

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America oppose H.R. 1949, the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025” because the bill prioritizes LNG exports over U.S. consumers by removing the Natural Gas Act (NGA) provision that requires LNG exports to “not be inconsistent with the public interest” (see Figure 1). Removing this consumer protection provision removes consideration of LNG impacts to U.S. prices of natural gas and electricity.

We should export, but not if U.S. consumers are impacted. H.R. 1949 is inconsistent with President Trump’s “America First” agenda. H.R. 1949 puts America last, not first. LNG exports are forecasted to increase 136 percent in the next five years (see Figure 2) and natural gas producers say they will struggle to meet LNG growth demand.¹

Prices are already increasing. Comparing the December 1, 2025 Henry Hub price of \$5.08 per MMBtu to the December 2024 price of \$2.90 MMBtu, prices have increased 75 percent.²

³ For every one dollar increase in the Henry Hub natural gas price, consumers pay on average \$34 billion more for natural gas and \$20 billion more for electricity or \$54 billion annually.⁴

¹ “US gas producers will struggle to meet LNG export growth-Expand CEO,” S&P Global Market Intelligence, September 18, 2025, https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/SPGlobal_Export_9-18-2025_8a8c85a8-bb40-444a-bcfd-8f1e07660801.pdf

² Natural Gas, U.S. Energy Information Administration, <https://www.eia.gov/naturalgas/>

³ Natural-Gas Prices Hit Highest Level Since Invasion of Ukraine, Wall Street Journal, November 13, 2025, <https://www.wsj.com/finance/commodities-futures/natural-gas-prices-hit-highest-level-since-invasion-of-ukraine-b21409bb?mod=Searchresults&pos=1&page=1>

⁴ Natural Gas, U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), <https://www.eia.gov/naturalgas/>

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has already approved a significant volume equal to 48 Bcf/d for shipment to non-free trade agreement (NFTA) countries, which equals 49 percent of 2024 net supply.⁵ Why then is it in the public interest for Congress to remove consumer protections?

When Congress passed the NGA years ago, it initiated an “America First” energy regulation. Congress, in their wisdom, understood that natural gas is essential to the economy and that U.S. consumers do not have an alternative, which makes them vulnerable. The NGA requires that exports to NFTA must not be inconsistent with the public interest. About 80 percent of U.S. LNG is shipped to NFTA countries.

LNG exports do have the ability to impact domestic prices.

1. U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) data proves that LNG export volumes are highest during our winter peak heating season months of November through March, which accelerates a reduction in U.S. inventory, increasing the prices of U.S. natural gas and electricity and reducing reliability. The severity of the problem increases as export capacity increases (see Figure 3).
2. LNG customers are countries who are insensitive to price and will pay any price to keep the lights on in their country. No matter how high U.S. prices will go, they will buy away U.S. natural gas even when our winter inventories fall and prices rise.
3. The LNG 20-year contracts shift supply and price risk from LNG buying countries to U.S. consumers and the economy.

For all the reasons above, we urge you to oppose H.R. 1949 and preserve consumer protections.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio
Paul N. Cicio
President & CEO

cc: U.S. Senate

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,

⁵ Summary of LNG Export Applications of the Lower 48 States, U.S. Department of Energy, <https://www.energy.gov/fecm/articles/summary-lng-export-applications-lower-48-states>

aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, consumer goods, building products, automotive, independent oil refining, and cement.

FIGURE 1

H.R. 1949 Removes Section (a) Through (c) Below

Natural Gas Act

15 U.S. Code § 717b - Exportation or importation of natural gas; LNG terminals

(a) Mandatory authorization order

After six months from June 21, 1938, no person shall export any natural gas from the United States to a foreign country or import any natural gas from a foreign country without first having secured an order of the Commission authorizing it to do so.

The Commission shall issue such order upon application, unless, after opportunity for hearing, it finds that the proposed exportation or importation will not be consistent with the public interest. The Commission may by its order grant such application, in whole or in part, with such modification and upon such terms and conditions as the Commission may find necessary or appropriate, and may from time to time, after opportunity for hearing, and for good cause shown, make such supplemental order in the premises as it may find necessary or appropriate.

(b) Free trade agreements

With respect to natural gas which is imported into the United States from a nation with which there is in effect a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas, and with respect to liquefied natural gas—

(1) the importation of such natural gas shall be treated as a “first sale” within the meaning of section 3301(21) of this title; and

(2) the Commission shall not, on the basis of national origin, treat any such imported natural gas on an unjust, unreasonable, unduly discriminatory, or preferential basis.

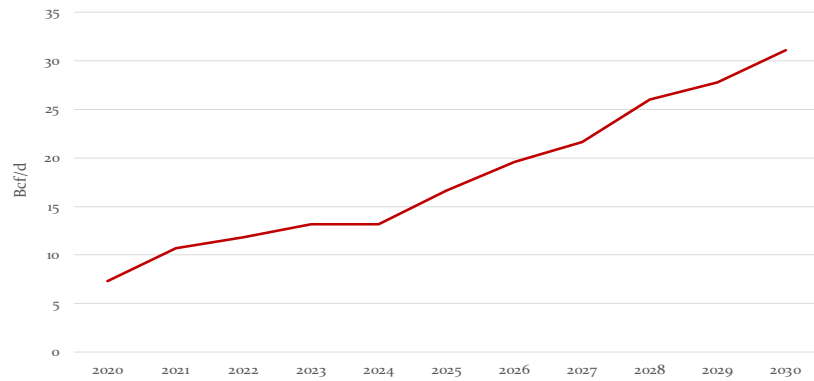
(c) Expedited application and approval process

For purposes of subsection (a), the importation of the natural gas referred to in subsection (b), or the exportation of natural gas to a nation with which there is in effect a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas, shall be deemed to be consistent with the public interest, and applications for such importation or exportation shall be granted without modification or delay.

FIGURE 2

U.S. LNG Export Capacity Increases 136% in Five Years (+17.9 Bcf/d)

9/18/2025

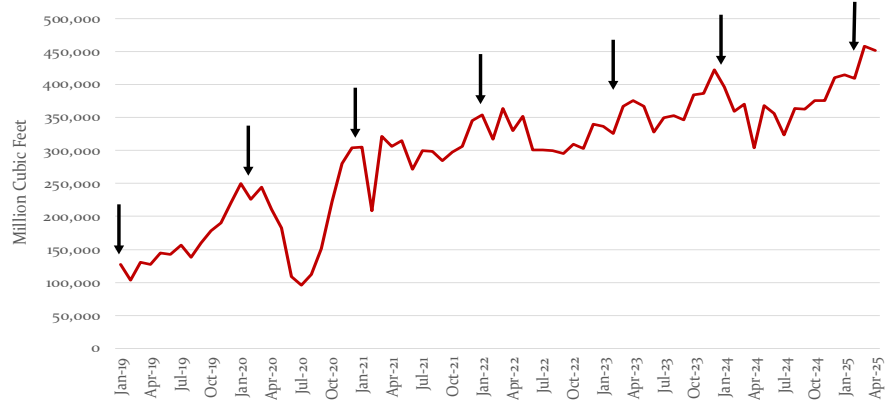


Source: S&P Global



FIGURE 3

LNG Exports are Highest During Winter Months Which Reduces Inventory and Increases Natural Gas and Electricity Prices



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)



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