



MEMORANDUM

To: Hon. Chris Wright, Secretary, US Department of Energy
Hon. Curt Coccodrilli, Acting Assistant Secretary and Principal Deputy
Assistant Secretary, Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office

From: Andrew Langer, President, Main Street Foundation

Date: June 29, 2026

Re: Comments on the US Department of Energy Hydrocarbons and Geothermal
Energy Office Request, “Importation or Exportation of Liquefied Natural
Gas or Electric Energy; Applications, Authorizations, etc.: Port Arthur
LNG, LLC,” Document ID DOE_FRDOC_0001-5400, Fed. Reg. 2026-11228,
Published June 4, 2026

Below are comments of the Main Street Foundation’s Center for Regulatory Analysis and Engagement (CRAE) in response to the US Department of Energy Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office Request, “Importation or Exportation of Liquefied Natural Gas or Electric Energy; Applications, Authorizations, etc.: Port Arthur LNG, LLC,” Document ID DOE_FRDOC_0001-5400, Fed. Reg. 2026-11228, published June 4, 2026.

CRAE is a project of the Main Street Foundation, a recently-formed non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) research and education foundation. Our mission is to bring a disciplined, common-sense perspective to the regulatory process, one grounded in real-world experience, sound science, and rigorous economic analysis. We work to ensure that the costs, risks, and benefits of regulatory proposals are evaluated transparently and accurately, and that the voices, interests, and freedoms of Americans, particularly small businesses and working families, are meaningfully represented in regulatory debates. Above all, we focus on outcomes: regulations should address real problems, function effectively in practice, and improve conditions on the ground—not exacerbate the challenges they are intended to solve.

Introduction

The Center for Regulatory Analysis and Engagement (CRAE) appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments regarding the application of Port Arthur LNG, LLC for blanket authorization to export previously imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) pursuant to Section 3(a) of the Natural Gas Act. CRAE supports regulatory systems that are transparent, predictable, economically efficient, and faithful to congressional direction while ensuring that administrative procedures remain proportionate to the activities being regulated.

Port Arthur LNG seeks authorization to export, over a two-year period, up to the equivalent of 20 billion cubic feet of previously imported, foreign-sourced LNG that will be used during the commissioning and cooldown of its liquefaction facilities prior to commercial operations. The application does not seek authority to expand domestic production, increase export capacity beyond previously authorized facilities, or otherwise alter the scope of existing LNG export approvals. Instead, it concerns the efficient disposition of LNG that was itself previously imported into the United States for operational purposes.

CRAE supports approval of the application because it represents precisely the type of limited, operational authorization that should receive prompt regulatory approval. The proposal presents little incremental regulatory risk, advances efficient administration under the Natural Gas Act, and allows existing energy infrastructure to operate as intended without creating unnecessary procedural obstacles.

More broadly, this proceeding illustrates an important principle of regulatory governance. Effective energy regulation depends not only upon sound substantive policy, but upon administrative systems capable of distinguishing between activities that warrant extensive public-interest review and those that are operationally routine. Agencies best serve both the public and regulated entities when regulatory requirements remain proportionate, predictable, and focused on genuine public interests rather than unnecessary administrative complexity.

Executive Summary

CRAE supports DOE's approval of Port Arthur LNG's application for blanket authorization to export previously imported foreign-sourced LNG used during the startup and commissioning of its liquefaction facilities. The application involves a narrow operational activity that neither expands domestic production nor increases previously authorized export capacity. Approval would promote efficient administration under the Natural Gas Act while supporting broader national economic and energy objectives.

Specifically:

- **The application concerns the re-export of previously imported foreign-sourced LNG rather than additional exports of domestically produced natural gas.**
- **Blanket authorization is an appropriate administrative mechanism for recurring operational activities presenting minimal incremental public-interest concerns.**
- **Facilitating lawful energy exports advances American economic competitiveness and complements broader national trade objectives.**

- **Efficient regulatory administration strengthens confidence in the permitting process while allowing agencies to devote greater attention to applications presenting more significant policy issues.**
- **DOE should continue modernizing LNG export administration through streamlined procedures, technological improvements, and risk-based regulatory review.**

By approving this application, DOE can demonstrate that sound regulatory administration promotes both economic opportunity and effective governmental oversight. Regulatory efficiency is not inconsistent with careful review; rather, it enables agencies to allocate resources where they provide the greatest public benefit.

I. The Application Presents Minimal Incremental Regulatory Risk

Unlike many LNG export proceedings, this application does not seek authority to export additional domestically produced natural gas or to expand existing export infrastructure. Instead, Port Arthur LNG requests authorization to re-export LNG that was previously imported from foreign sources and used during the startup and cooldown of its liquefaction facilities before commercial operations commence.

That distinction is significant. Questions surrounding domestic production levels, upstream natural gas supply, construction of export facilities, or expansion of export capacity are not presented by this application. Those issues have been addressed through separate authorization proceedings and are not reopened here. The present request concerns only the efficient disposition of imported LNG that has already entered the United States for a limited operational purpose.

Accordingly, DOE should evaluate this application on its own merits rather than through the lens of broader debates regarding domestic LNG exports. The incremental public-interest considerations associated with this proposal are comparatively modest, making it an appropriate candidate for streamlined regulatory treatment.

Risk-based administration has become an increasingly important principle of effective governance. Regulatory requirements should correspond to the actual magnitude of the risks presented by a proposed activity. Where incremental risks are limited, administrative procedures should likewise remain proportionate.

II. Facilitating Lawful Energy Exports Advances the Public Interest

The United States has increasingly emphasized strengthening domestic production, expanding American competitiveness, and improving the nation's trade position. Whatever one's views regarding the economic significance of trade deficits, current national policy plainly seeks to increase American participation in global markets and reduce unnecessary barriers to international commerce.

Within that policy framework, federal agencies should administer existing statutory authorities in ways that facilitate lawful exports whenever consistent with governing law and the public

interest. Administrative processes should complement—not inadvertently frustrate—the broader economic objectives established by Congress and the Executive Branch.

This principle applies with particular force here. Port Arthur LNG seeks authority to export LNG that was itself previously imported into the United States. Even those who advocate limiting exports of domestically produced natural gas cannot reasonably assert that the same concerns apply to foreign-sourced LNG temporarily imported for commissioning purposes. Allowing its efficient re-export avoids unnecessary waste, promotes efficient commercial operations, and contributes positively to international trade without increasing domestic resource extraction.

Moreover, every lawful export transaction contributes to American commercial activity, strengthens the competitiveness of U.S. energy infrastructure, and reinforces the nation's role as a reliable participant in global energy markets. Agencies should therefore avoid imposing unnecessary procedural barriers where Congress has authorized export activity and the incremental public-interest concerns are minimal.

III. Blanket Authorizations Promote Better Regulatory Administration

Blanket authorizations represent an important administrative tool for managing recurring operational activities efficiently. Rather than requiring repetitive applications for substantially similar transactions, blanket authorizations allow agencies to focus their resources on proposals presenting genuinely novel or significant public-interest questions.

This application exemplifies that principle. The requested authorization is limited in duration, limited in volume, and limited to previously imported LNG used during facility startup. Requiring repeated transaction-specific approvals would increase administrative costs for both DOE and regulated entities while producing little corresponding public benefit.

Efficient administration enhances regulatory credibility. Predictable permitting timelines, proportionate review procedures, and clearly defined authorization mechanisms encourage compliance while allowing agencies to devote greater attention to matters presenting more substantial legal, environmental, or economic considerations.

IV. DOE Should Continue Modernizing LNG Export Administration

This proceeding also highlights the continuing opportunity to modernize federal energy permitting. DOE has made important progress in improving the administration of LNG export authorizations, but additional opportunities remain to simplify regulatory processes without compromising statutory responsibilities.

CRAE encourages continued investment in electronic filing systems, standardized application formats, automated completeness reviews, interoperable data systems, and emerging technologies that improve administrative efficiency. Routine applications presenting limited incremental risks should receive correspondingly efficient review, allowing agency personnel to concentrate resources on more complex proceedings requiring detailed analysis.

Modern administrative systems strengthen both government performance and regulated entities' confidence in the permitting process. Predictable, transparent, and technologically advanced regulatory administration benefits applicants, government officials, energy consumers, and the broader public alike.

Conclusion

CRAE appreciates DOE's careful consideration of Port Arthur LNG's application and its continuing administration of the Natural Gas Act's export authorization framework. The Center supports approval of the requested blanket authorization. The application concerns a limited operational activity involving previously imported foreign-sourced LNG and presents comparatively modest incremental public-interest concerns.

This proceeding also demonstrates the value of regulatory systems that distinguish between major policy decisions and routine operational authorizations. Agencies best serve the public when administrative requirements remain proportionate to the activities being regulated and resources are directed toward issues warranting the greatest scrutiny.

CRAE further encourages DOE to continue modernizing LNG export administration through technological innovation, streamlined procedures, and risk-based regulatory review. Efficient permitting improves both governmental performance and economic competitiveness.

Finally, this proceeding presents DOE with an opportunity to reaffirm that effective energy regulation is measured not by the accumulation of procedural requirements, but by transparent, predictable, and proportionate administration that faithfully implements congressional direction while supporting America's energy security, economic competitiveness, and lawful participation in global energy markets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew M. Langer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew M. Langer
President
Main Street Foundation