

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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[www.science.house.gov](http://www.science.house.gov)

December 9, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm:

The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (Committee) has sent you three letters regarding unjustified efforts by the Department of Energy (Department) to halt the United States' exportation of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and update the analyses used to authorize LNG exports.<sup>1</sup> In total, these letters posed 17 questions and made two document requests.<sup>2</sup> In the nine months since these questions were first posed, the Department has failed to provide any substantive answers about the analyses being conducted to establish LNG export authorizations. Despite being unable to provide the Committee with documents or answers to these preliminary questions in more than nine months, you recently stated in Azerbaijan that you intend to publish the analysis before the end of President Biden's term and then let the document, "speak for itself."<sup>3</sup> In our previous letters, we outlined how the Department's continued refusal to provide the requested documents, communications, and scientific evidence supporting the analysis activities that the National Laboratories have been directed to undertake is counter to the Department's own scientific integrity policy. Publishing such an impactful and far-reaching analysis without any transparency into the process would diminish the actual and perceived credibility of federal government-sponsored research. For this reason, the Committee requests the Department refrain from releasing any analysis of U.S. LNG exports, in either draft or final form, until the Department explains its actions and addresses our concerns.

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<sup>1</sup> The White House, Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Temporary Pause on Pending Approvals of Liquefied Natural Gas Exports, WHITEHOUSE.GOV (Jan. 26, 2024), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/01/26/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-temporary-pause-on-pending-approvals-of-liquefied-natural-gas-exports/>.

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Frank Lucas et al, Republican chairmen and members of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Tech. to Jennifer Granholm, Secretary U.S. Dep't of Energy. (Feb. 7, 2024) <https://republicans-science.house.gov/cache/files/a/0/a0cf493d-e6eb-4cc9-be42-ad4eb6d69022/EF47E76EA6E1BA19C1AAE6EE71CFE29D.sst---doe-lng-export-letter.pdf>; Letter from Frank Lucas et al, Chairmen of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Tech. to Jennifer Granholm, Secretary U.S. Dep't of Energy. (April 23, 2024) [https://republicans-science.house.gov/cache/files/6/1/61a13b84-a980-43f9-ae8-bd1e21c80292/6AE334F5591\\_A4F6140308DBC32516691.sst---doe-lng-follow-up.pdf](https://republicans-science.house.gov/cache/files/6/1/61a13b84-a980-43f9-ae8-bd1e21c80292/6AE334F5591_A4F6140308DBC32516691.sst---doe-lng-follow-up.pdf); Letter from Frank Lucas et al, Chairmen of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Tech. to Jennifer Granholm, Secretary U.S. Dep't of Energy. (August 12, 2024) <https://republicans-science.house.gov/cache/files/a/2/a2e9eb78-1cfa-43c8-bdec-22180fbae1da/AC17A3A17DEB17A876F71BB39B556E58.sst---doe-lng-august-follow-up.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> The Committee did receive a briefing on April 11, 2024 where none of the Committee's questions were answered, and a document production on June 5, 2024 and July 18, 2024 which included mostly screen shots from the Department's website and power points unrelated to the questions that were posed; *see also* Carlos Anchondo, *Granholm: Fate of LNG permits will fall to Trump*, POLITICO, Nov. 15, 2024, <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2024/11/granholm-lng-permits-trump-00189873?site=pro&prod=alert&prodname=alertmail&linktype=headline&source=email>.

The Committee is perplexed by how the Department could be positioned to finalize a study that was never authorized or funded by Congress. Furthermore, we are concerned that the analysis will be published without ever having identified the scope of topics to be included, or the offices, programs, and individuals that will be part of the analysis. Additionally, it has been unclear what new scientific study or evidence the Department has determined necessitates this “pause” or the subsequent analysis. Given the lack of answers and transparency, as well as the failed communication on behalf of the Department, we must assume some level of political motivation drove this halt on LNG exports. The Committee has given the Department an ample opportunity to be transparent and to address any doubts of political influence in developing this new analysis. However, the Department continues to choose silence.

The Committee clearly communicated our concern that pausing the exportation of LNG with no scientific justification will ultimately result in a permanent ban of one of our country’s most valuable clean energy resources. Without further clarification of our concerns, we believe that it would be premature to publish this analysis even in draft form. This is especially important considering the hyper politicalization of this issue and the apparent effort to shackle the analysis’ findings onto the next administration. For these reasons, we are requesting the Department preserve all documents relating to the any LNG analysis efforts and its drafting, including communications leading up to and during the development of the economic and environmental analyses.<sup>4</sup> Lastly, the Committee requests that Secretary Granholm’s provide a personal commitment to participate in all oversight efforts of this analysis in all future discussions.

Pursuant to Rule X of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is delegated oversight jurisdiction over all laws, programs, and government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development.<sup>5</sup> If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Daniel Dziadon at (202) 225-6371. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Frank Lucas  
Chairman  
House Committee on Science,  
Space, and Technology

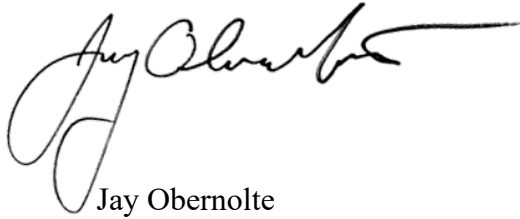


Max Miller  
Chairman  
House Committee on Science,  
Space, and Technology  
Subcommittee on Environment

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<sup>4</sup> Documents to be preserved include but are not limited to: all documents, data, correspondence pertaining to the analysis; all documents used to support the analysis’ findings whether they are cited or not; all Department emails pertaining to the analysis; all department chats pertaining to the analysis; all government emails pertaining to the analysis within the Department’s access; all meeting invites; minutes from every meeting held; names, titles, and roles of every employee, volunteer, detailee, expert, and individual that participated in the research and drafting of the analysis; names of organizations that may have subsidized the pay of any of the above individuals and the amounts that they contributed and; names of organizations that directly or indirectly helped subsidize the cost of this analysis and the amounts that they contributed.

<sup>5</sup> Rule X, Organization of Committees, U.S. House of Representatives.



Jay Obernolte  
Chairman  
House Committee on Science,  
Space, and Technology  
Subcommittee on  
Investigations and Oversight



Brian Babin  
Chairman  
House Committee on Science,  
Space, and Technology  
Subcommittee on Space and  
Aeronautics

cc: Zoe Lofgren, Ranking Member. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology