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MARKUP OF H.R. 6, THE DOMESTIC PROSPERITY AND
GLOBAL FREEDOM ACT (DAY 1)

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014

House of Representatives,
Subcommittee on Energy and Power,
Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 4:09 p.m., in Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Ed Whitfield [chairman of the subcommittee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Whitfield, Terry, Burgess, Latta, Gardner, Barton, Upton (ex officio), Engel, Green, and Waxman (ex officio).

Staff Present: Nick Abraham, Legislative Clerk; Charlotte Baker, Deputy Communications Director; Mike Bloomquist, General

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Counsel; Matt Bravo, Professional Staff Member; Allison Busbee, Policy Coordinator, Energy & Power; Tom Hassenboehler, Chief Counsel, Energy & Power; Peter Kielty, Deputy General Counsel; Jason Knox, Counsel, Energy & Power; Ben Lieberman, Counsel, Energy & Power; Jeff Baran, Minority Senior Counsel; Jen Berenholz, Minority Chief Clerk; Elizabeth Letter, Minority Press Secretary; and Karen Lightfoot, Minority Communications Director and Senior Policy Advisor.

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Mr. Whitfield. The subcommittee will now come to order. And today we begin our opening statements for the markup of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, and the chair will recognize himself for 5 minutes for an opening statement.

As I said, today we do begin the markup of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, to expedite the approval of LNG exports. This subcommittee has probably never been better prepared for a markup than for this one. Over the past year, we have had several hearings discussing LNG exports and conducted a forum in which we heard from the representatives of 11 foreign nations that would like to import natural gas from the U.S. We also published a white paper detailing the geopolitical and domestic economic benefits of LNG exports.

And most of this activity took place way before the current Ukraine crisis. So this was something that we believed that America would benefit from way before there was any issue relating to Ukraine.

I would like to thank our friend and colleague, Cory Gardner from Colorado, for sponsoring this important and timely bill, and I would urge all of you to join us in supporting this important legislation.

All of us are very much aware of the great benefits that we have, the reserves that we have of LNG. We are very fortunate that America will soon, if it has not already, become the number one producer of liquefied natural gas in the world. I will also say that as EPA makes it more and more difficult to burn coal, we are going to be relying more and more on LNG, on gas for producing electricity.

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But I would like to point out some cautionary tale as well, and that is the inventory of LNG today is the lowest level that it has been since 2003. This came about primarily because of the polar vortex.

But I am delighted that we have this legislation, and I would yield back the balance of my time. And at this time, I would like to recognize the gentleman from California, Mr. Waxman, for 5 minutes for his opening statement.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Whitfield follows:]

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Mr. Waxman. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Tomorrow, we are actually going to do the markup and consider Congressman Gardner's bill to change the approval process for liquefied natural gas exports. The basic premise of this bill is that the Department of Energy has moved too slowly in approving applications to export LNG. I would question that assumption. Some might say the DOE has moved quite aggressively to authorize LNG exports. To date, DOE has approved seven export proposals and is continuing to evaluate additional applications.

The amounts already approved for export would transform the United States into the world's second-largest exporter of LNG, just behind Qatar. If just one more application is granted, we would be the largest exporter in the world.

Currently, DOE performs a public interest determination when reviewing export applications so that it can carefully consider the effect of LNG exports on natural gas prices, the impact of higher prices on American consumers and manufacturers. The public interest determination also provides DOE an important opportunity to examine energy security, geopolitical and environmental considerations.

Now, I am not opposed to DOE considering applications for additional LNG exports if those reviews are thorough. But I am concerned about the approach taken in this bill. The bill would short circuit the established review process for pending and future LNG export applications. It requires DOE to approve essentially unlimited

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LNG exports to all 159 World Trade Organization countries without any determination that such exports are in the public interest.

One issue that many have raised is the impact on domestic natural gas prices, manufacturing, and jobs. And some people are worried as well that the price of LNG will go up. Maybe some people in the United States would like to have the price of LNG go up so that power plants would go back to good old coal instead of using natural gas. But we have major companies, like Dow, Alcoa, and Nucor, raising concerns about the bill for this very reason. The current process allows DOE the opportunity to waive the arguments for and against exports and assess where the public interest lies.

A major issue that should be examined is the climate impacts of these decisions. If LNG exports reduce coal consumption in other nations, that is an environmental benefit. But producing LNG takes a significant amount of energy and LNG exports could lead to more coal consumption in the U.S. These pros and cons should be carefully weighed.

Proponents of unlimited LNG exports contend that we need to help Ukraine and our European allies resist Russian aggression. I agree that the Russian annexation of Crimea is a grave problem, but I am skeptical that this bill will make much of a difference. The bill will not result in LNG exports to Europe for several years, if at all. No LNG export facilities currently exist in the continental United States. When the United States actually begins to export significant quantities

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of LNG 3 or 4 years from now, it may not even go to Europe. The export terminals most likely to be constructed already signed contracts to send LNG to Asia where natural gas prices are higher than in Europe.

So I am not convinced this bill is necessary. The record before the committee indicates the current system is approving LNG projects and it is doing this while weighing the public interest and providing for public participation. I don't think the case has been made for upending the system, so I will not be supporting this bill in its current form.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Whitfield. Thank you, Mr. Waxman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Waxman follows:]

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Mr. Whitfield. At this time I would like to recognize the gentleman from Michigan, the chairman of the full committee, Mr. Upton, for 5 minutes.

The Chairman. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

North America's growing energy abundance offers a variety of opportunities to create jobs here at home, enhance our standing in the world, and supplant the influence of Russia and Iran. Exporting our surplus of natural gas can do all these things, but only to the extent that Washington will allow it to happen. H.R. 6 eliminates the unnecessary red tape currently blocking LNG exports, and I applaud Mr. Gardner's work for introducing this commonsense bill and urge all of our colleagues to support it.

The numbers from the EIA are compelling and clear: America has more than enough natural gas to meet domestic needs while also supporting export markets. Exports strengthen the economy, and natural gas exports are no exception. And by providing an alternative source of natural gas for our allies, we can do a lot of geopolitical goodwill while we boost our own economy.

The only reason Ukraine and other Eastern Europe allies rely on Russia for natural gas is that they currently have little choice. None. H.R. 6 gives them that choice. Russia's economy has nothing going for it except energy production and exports. Energy competition is something that Mr. Putin generally fears, and U.S. LNG will rein in his influence, both now and in the years ahead. Russia just used

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its might last week by raising its prices by nearly 50 percent.

While DOE continues to stall in approving applications, the administration has acknowledged the potential for LNG exports to increase global energy security. The U.S. and the EU recently said this in a joint statement, and I quote: "The situation in Ukraine proves the need to reinforce energy security in Europe, and we are considering new collaborative efforts to achieve this goal. We welcome the prospect of U.S. LNG exports in the future, since additional global supplies will benefit Europe and other strategic partners," end quote.

To me, that is what this bill does. It underscores exactly what the administration agreed to in that joint statement. Ukraine may be in the headlines today for sure, but there are a number of other natural gas importing nations that would also prefer to buy energy from the U.S. than be beholden to the likes of Russia or Iran.

U.S. LNG exports offer a rare opportunity to do a lot of good for our allies without costing taxpayers a dime. In fact, a recent NERA study estimates that LNG exports would put an additional 45,000 Americans back to work. It is both smart diplomacy and smart jobs policy. The New York Times, I would also say, editorialized in support of an LNG export policy just in the last 2 or 3 weeks as well in an editorial.

But America's newfound energy abundance cannot be put to good use without the right policies in place. Just as the needless 5-year delay

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approving the Keystone XL pipeline is limiting North America's oil potential, DOE's convoluted process for approving LNG export applications is jeopardizing the opportunity to become a natural gas export superpower. The LNG export infrastructure is an important part of the Nation's architecture of abundance, but the Federal bureaucracy has not kept up with the times.

That is why this legislation, H.R. 6, is so critical. The Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act would eliminate the lengthy delays in approving LNG export facilities. This bill is a win-win for jobs and for the message that it sends to the rest of the world. And I would urge all of my colleagues in supporting this legislation. And I yield back the balance of my time.

[The prepared statement of The Chairman follows:]

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Mr. Whitfield. The gentleman yields back the balance of his time.

At this time recognize the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Green, for 3 minutes.

Mr. Green. I want to thank the chairman and ranking member for holding the markup. And I am a supporter of natural gas. My accent gives me away.

It is no secret that shale gas development has spurred our economy and the driving force of our economic recovery over the last 5 years. Our chemical industry manufacturers and power sectors have benefitted greatly from low price natural gas. But as our production increased, our consumption has not kept pace. In fact, the United States continues to produce more natural gas than we can use.

In 2013, the U.S. produced more than 66 billion cubic feet of natural gas. Currently, in places like North Dakota, we are producing over 1 billion cubic feet of gas per year. Unfortunately, we are flaring over 300 million cubic feet because there is no place for that gas to go.

Let's make no mistake, we must protect our domestic industry and the competitive advantage low price natural gas has afforded them. But we also look for opportunities to create new markets, and exports are an important part of the solution. Currently, the Department of Energy has conditionally approved seven export facilities. When all seven are fully operational, total export of natural gas will exceed 9 billion

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cubic feet per day.

H.R. 6 has given us the opportunity to debate the LNG exports and discuss legitimate concerns. However, the bill also eliminates an important role played by the Department of Energy and paves the way for unlimited exports. While I am a believer in the current process, I also realize we must speed it up. There are market forces and economics that play a vital role in determining whether exporting U.S. gas is profitable.

That is why I drafted an amendment that I just shared with Congressman Gardner to H.R. 6. My amendment is a market-focused approach that would cut permitting time in half while maintaining the public interest, consideration, and environmental protection. If we are serious about sending U.S. gas abroad and reaping all of the benefits, we must find a compromise. I believe we can work together and find a solution because both Republicans and Democrats believe there are benefits to exports. And I look forward to working with my colleagues as we move to full committee. And I yield back.

Mr. Whitfield. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Green follows:]

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Mr. Whitfield. The gentleman yields back.

At this time I recognize the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Barton, for 3 minutes.

Mr. Barton. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 6. I am very pleased to see that you are marking it up in subcommittee. This is a very good bill. It is also a very simple bill. Under current law, if we have an existing free trade agreement with a country there is an automatic approval by DOE of the ability to export LNG. This bill, if it becomes law, would expand that by amending the Natural Gas Act to say, instead of a free trade agreement, if there is a country that is a member of the World Trade Organization.

So what the bill actually does, Mr. Chairman, as you well know, instead of current law where we have a bilateral trade agreement, U.S. and, say, Great Britain, for example, it would say if any nation that is a part of WTO, then it is an automatic.

Even under current law, it is a rebuttable presumption that it is in the national interest, and the Department of Energy has to say it is not in the national interest for it not to be approved. And I think Mr. Waxman pointed this out. So far, the Department of Energy on the seven projects that they have reviewed, they have approved all of them. So it sort of begs the question, Mr. Chairman, why we don't do something like Mr. Gardner recommends, because since you have got to prove a negative, you have got to prove that it is not in the national

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interest to export LNG, and that has yet to be done, then why not go to this expanded definition of WTO?

I would also point out that if this bill becomes law it doesn't short circuit any of the environmental reviews, any of the specific permitting requirements. That is still done by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission under current law and would continue to be done if Mr. Gardner's bill becomes law.

So this is a good bill. I hope that we can move it on a bipartisan basis to full committee, pass it very quickly there, and then put it on the floor in the very near future.

With that, I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Barton follows:]

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Mr. Whitfield. The gentleman yields back.

At this time I recognize the gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. Terry, for 3 minutes.

Mr. Terry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having this important markup. And two summers ago, I hosted a natural gas roundtable in my district, and we called it the Jobs Energy and Security and Economy, the New Role of Natural Gas in America's Future. Little did I know then that we would be examining what American natural gas would play in the world's future and actually discussing exports.

Now, I have heard from groups that oppose the export of natural gas. From my perspective, they are still thinking in terms of the U.S. having a scarcity of resources, not an abundance. Believe me, I understand where they are coming from. It was not too long ago that my good friend Gene Green and I were authoring legislation for natural gas import facilities. We were concerned that we didn't have enough natural gas. But that has certainly changed here at home, as the shale play has been a game changer.

I attended with many members of this committee the Bakken region in North Dakota. What sticks out in my mind is that it was cheaper for the companies to flare off the natural gas than it was to capture it. That is how abundant it is. With events threatening stability in the world today why would we want to do that?

Former Obama national security advisor and retired Marine General Jim Jones testified before the Senate Relations Committee that Vladimir

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Putin uses energy as a weapon. In fact, several of this subcommittee, including our chairman, we visited Turkey and talked to their Secretary of Energy regarding their purchase of Russian and Iranian oil and natural gas, of which his reply to us was, give us a contract, we will sign it now. He said it probably a half a dozen times during that meeting. Wouldn't it be nice on a country that is one of our strategic allies, that is trending away from us, to have a trading partner of one of their most needed commodities in natural gas.

Let's not kid ourselves, energy is used as a weapon. We should use our own energy to help our allies and protect ourselves. But before we get there, we need to create the infrastructure that allows us to begin exporting natural gas, and H.R. 6 is exactly what we need to show the world that we are serious about sharing our resources. And I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Terry follows:]

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Mr. Whitfield. The gentleman yields back.

At this time, the chair recognizes the gentleman from New York, Mr. Engel, for 3 minutes.

Mr. Engel. Three minutes? I will have to talk fast, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for holding today's markup on H.R. 6.

In a short amount of time, the United States has gone from a net importer of natural gas, as recently as 2011, and now experts tell us that, based on current projections, the United States will become an exporter of liquefied natural gas by the year 2016. I think we can all agree that the conversation around U.S. energy consumption has evolved rapidly, and the implications for an impact on climate change and U.S. national security are encouraging.

While natural gas offers a reportedly cleaner source of energy than carbon-heavy coal, I do remain concerned about the extraction process where disclosure of the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process remains murky. I am, however, willing to learn more. I have gone to North Dakota and gone to Alberta, and I think there are a lot of things that all of us can learn about this.

More so, events in Ukraine over the past few weeks have brought discussions about the future of American energy, specifically whether or not the U.S. should export natural gas into a brighter spotlight here in Congress. While the reported geopolitical benefits of exporting LNG to countries like Ukraine seem to provide a possible

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counterweight to Russia's heavyhanded tactics, it is tempered by the fact that Ukraine will see no near-term strategic benefit from U.S. natural gas because they currently lack the capacity to regasify LNG, and many U.S. export terminals are already contractually obligated to supply entities in Asia. However, we need to look into the feasibility of U.S. exports of energy.

I think this is something that we need to do. We need to take advantage, but we need to do it in the right way, not just jump at things. So, unfortunately, the legislation before us today, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, seeks to solve more problems than appear to exist. Under H.R. 6, the DOE would be required to approve without modification or delay all applications for LNG exports to all WTO member nations.

Of particular concern at a time when the U.S. is incredibly concerned about Russian actions in Ukraine, this bill would require us to approve exports to Russia. I don't see how exporting more natural gas to Russia enhances Ukraine's strategic position in the region. Other WTO member states include Venezuela, Cuba, Zimbabwe. Is it not in our national interest to regulate the export of our national resources to these countries?

More so, DOE has already granted multiple applications to export LNG to non-free trade agreement countries around the world, all without the benefit or need of legislation. This legislation will dramatically curtail the Department of Energy's ability to assess the

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domestic impact when considering applications.

So I do have strong reservations about the bill in its current form. I would urge the majority to work with us in a bipartisan manner going forward because I do agree with them that we need to look at new possibilities for the future of U.S. exporting energy. We have the resources. We need to do it. We need to use it. We need to counter Russia. But we need to do it right.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Engel follows:]

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Mr. Whitfield. The gentleman's time has expired.

At this time I recognize the gentleman from Texas, Dr. Burgess, for 3 minutes.

Dr. Burgess. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

You know, thanks to the efforts of State and local governments to encourage growth, we are really on the cusp of a significant achievement within the energy sector. This comes in spite of every action taken by the Obama administration to hamper energy production.

Although the President loves to talk the modest job gains we have had in the past 5 years, he rarely gives credit where credit is due, primarily to the State of Texas, which is where one-third of those jobs have been created in the past 5 years. Almost all of these new jobs have been in the energy sector.

As a result of the gains that we have experienced, the country is ready to move forward with exporting the excess amount of liquefied natural gas produced in the United States to our friends and allies overseas. Dozens of companies are poised to expand their facilities, hire new employees in this venture. Yet, for the first 5 years of Barack Obama's Presidency his Department of Energy has remained inert, not approving any new liquefied natural gas export terminals. In fact, it wasn't until Mr. Gardner, the author of the legislation before us, until Mr. Gardner introduced his bill did the Energy Department finally start to move on several of these applications.

I am certain that that was pure coincidence that the DOE approved

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several new export applications just days before this subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 6. The President, no doubt, would have experienced abundant criticism from both sides of the dais at that hearing had they not approved them in time. Now, skeptics might see such a suspiciously timed action as a way for the administration to blunt criticism. I will leave that analysis to the skeptics.

I enthusiastically support H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act. It is a necessary piece of legislation designed to act where the President and the Secretary of Energy have failed. Energy companies are ready to go to work with our allies to export natural gas and bring liquefied natural gas to the free market. This committee, this House of Representatives, is standing with our allies who have been asking for more exports from the United States. We are ready and willing to move forward to build relationships around the world.

I am pleased to see this bill moving today. I certainly look forward to supporting it through its passage in the subcommittee, full committee, in the Rules Committee, on the floor of the House, and one day at the President's desk. The House of Representatives is moving to help this country become more energy independent, and this subcommittee, this committee is part of that process.

I yield back to the chairman.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Burgess follows:]

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Mr. Whitfield. The gentleman yields back.

At this time I recognize the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Latta, for 3 minutes.

Mr. Latta. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you very much for holding today's markup on this very important piece of legislation. H.R. 6 will not only strengthen our strategic partnerships abroad, but also lock in a host of domestic economic benefits.

Technological advances in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing have opened up domestic energy resources as vast shale formations have become economical to explore and produce. This has spurred expansive growth in domestic energy markets and changed the international energy landscape.

When it comes to natural gas, there is even greater potential for overall growth. As Dr. Daniel Yergin explained during one of our subcommittee hearings, the U.S. natural gas market is demand-constrained, not supply-constrained. To maintain the investment flow into the development of natural gas, the industry needs to expand into larger markets. Larger markets exist with our friends and allies in Europe and Asia.

Even more convincing is the ongoing situation in Ukraine, which exposed Europe's vulnerability and dangerous dependence on Russian natural gas. Russia continues to manipulate its natural gas prices to punish West-leaning governments with higher prices. Just last

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week, Gazprom increased the price of natural gas on Ukraine by 44 percent.

Had the Department of Energy not slow walked its approval process over the last 2 years, we would undoubtedly be better situated to provide fast relief to our allies from Russian energy manipulation. This is why H.R. 6 is an important and necessary piece of legislation. This bill will clear the backlog of export applications currently pending at DOE and ensure exports to our allies are no longer subject to unnecessary delays.

Immediate approval of the U.S. LNG exports will provide momentum on ongoing infrastructure developments throughout Eastern Europe and send a message of strategic reassurance to these increasingly unstable regions. Helping our allies diversify their energy resources is vital to strengthening our strategic partnerships and bolstering security.

Beyond the international and geopolitical benefits, LNG exports will expand the domestic energy economy and create American jobs. This is especially true in areas like my district that have 60,000 manufacturing jobs, many of which make component parts used in the energy development process. Numerous studies have highlighted these positive impacts, including the DOE's macroeconomic study that found net positive impacts. Other studies have estimated that the net effects on U.S. employment from LNG exports could create a net growth of 452,000 jobs between 2013 and 2035.

In Ohio, we could see as many as 30,000 new jobs by 2035. These

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jobs not only bring economic security to our employees and their families, but also would generate billions of dollars in new revenue for Federal, State, and local governments. The benefits of U.S. LNG exports are clear. And I thank Mr. Gardner for his leadership on this issue, and urge my colleagues' support.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Latta follows:]

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Mr. Whitfield. The gentleman's time has expired.

At this time I recognize the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. Gardner, the author of H.R. 6, recognized for 3 minutes.

Mr. Gardner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you as well for holding the markup today and tomorrow. I appreciate the incredible chance to work on this important piece of legislation.

Last week Russia raised natural gas prices on Ukraine in what clearly was a punitive measure. While this may be the most recent instance of Putin using natural gas as a weapon against one of our Eastern European allies, it certainly won't be the last. H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, is an effective means of fighting back on behalf of our friends in that region.

But this subcommittee actually began looking into this issue of energy exports long before the crisis in Ukraine, and H.R. 6 is about much more than our friends in Ukraine. This bill will help many of our allies and trading partners all over the world while providing jobs and economic growth here at home. LNG exports can truly be both a foreign policy success story and an economic policy success story, and it comes at a time when we can use a heck of a lot more of both.

We have held four hearings on energy exports, and many of the common misconceptions about them have already been dispelled. For example, some argue that since LNG exports won't begin right away they can't do any good for quite some time. But representatives of Hungary, Lithuania, and the Czech Republic have told this subcommittee that the

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very signal that America is serious about entering the global natural gas market will immediately reduce Russia's negotiating leverage and pricing power. H.R. 6 will send that signal and instantly change the dynamics in the region, and the benefits will grow in the years ahead as the LNG exports start to flow.

And while Eastern Europe is understandably on everyone's mind right now, American natural gas exports will also find a market among our allies and trading partners elsewhere. For example, many of our energy-dependent Asian allies, such as Japan, India, Singapore, and South Korea, informed this subcommittee that they would strongly prefer U.S. LNG over unstable supplies from the Middle East. And several developing nations say LNG is a more affordable source of electricity for their citizens. As a representative from the Haitian government told this subcommittee, they would like trade instead of aid. There truly is a global market for American natural gas.

Now, some have asserted that the extra demand from exports will cause a cost increase in domestic natural gas prices for manufacturers and consumers. But the NERA study conducted for the Department of Energy, as well as others, conclude that America has ample spare capacity in natural gas and that any increase in demand can be met by raising production.

I know that in my home State of Colorado we are ready to ramp up natural gas output to meet increased demand from export markets and that the opportunity to do so would create good-paying jobs for

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neighbors and families. And when you add the thousands of jobs building and operating the LNG export facilities and the flow of billions of dollars of energy revenues coming into the country, it becomes clear that the geopolitical benefits are really just a fringe benefit of a sound economic policy.

Despite this potential, the majority of LNG export applications are waiting in a long line at DOE. And now that the line may be even longer thanks to DOE's insistence that the U.S. public interest be in part determined by a new G7 process, it could be even longer. We shouldn't have to wait for G7 approval to create U.S. jobs and more energy security around the world.

My bill breaks the logjam, expedites approvals of the pending applications, and gives new applications a more reasonable process. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6. And I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time today.

Mr. Whitfield. Thank you very much.

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[The prepared statement of Mr. Gardner follows:]

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Mr. Whitfield. And that concludes the opening statements. So the chair at this time would call up H.R. 6 and ask the clerk to report.

The Clerk. H.R. 6, to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries and for other purposes.

[The act, H.R. 6, follows:]

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Mr. Whitfield. Without objection, the first reading of the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for amendment at any point. So ordered.

Now, for the information of members, who seem all to have gone, we are now on H.R. 6, and the subcommittee will reconvene at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. I would like to remind members that the chair will give priority recognition to amendments offered on a bipartisan basis. So I look forward to seeing all of you tomorrow. And without objection, the committee stands in recess until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 4:42 p.m., the subcommittee recessed, to reconvene at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 9, 2014.]