



## Office of the Mayor

*Thurman Bill Bartie*

April 3, 2024

*Congressional Testimony submitted to Committee on Energy and Commerce*

*U. S. House of Representatives*

Witness: Thurman Bill Bartie

Organization: City of Port Arthur, TX

Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security – Field Hearing

April 8, 2024 @ 1800 Lakeshore Dr.

“Biden’s LNG Export Ban: How Rush-to-Green Politics Hurts Local Communities an U. S. Energy Security”

Honorable Committee Chair and Members,

I begin this dialogue with a commendable “thank you” for allowing indulgence from the municipal government which has jurisdiction where this affected facility is situated. I, in no way am here to bash or discredit the Biden – Harris Administration on its position on the matter of permitting, however, I do appeal to the said administration to reconsider and subsequently abandon its present course of discontinuance or disallowing the permitting process to go forward.

The city of Port Arthur, Texas is home to several petrochemical facilities and we proudly embrace the fact of having the largest of such facilities in North America; and we even say: “in the world.”

With such industrial neighbors come the necessity of relational interactions with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA). These agencies are trusted within our community to be sure the air quality we all breathe is not contaminated and able to sustain life. In the past we have relied on collaborations within these agencies to support the economic stability of our community and the physical health of the citizens who call Port Arthur, Texas, home.

As I ponder the significance of this hearing on today with relation to the future economic impact of the LNG industry in our city; I beg for compromise of the positions of all who are authorities in the process at hand. As aforementioned with the petrochemical industry, the LNG industry is alive and well within the jurisdictional confines of the municipal governance I represent. The “Rush-to-Green” concept as it is being applied to the said LNG supplier will have a negative impact on the economic growth and stability of Port Arthur, Texas. The jobs Port Arthurans have during this construction phase will be compromised negatively if the permitting is continued to be disallowed. The economic impact to businesses supplying materials and goods during this operation will harm families’ abilities to continue with specific qualities of life. The negative impact will then spread to the region and ill-affect thousands of workers and their families.

Committee, I implore you to seek an amicable resolve to the present position by agencies which have authority to bring about the compromise needed to continue the economic growth for our fair city and provide a life sustaining environmentally friendly co-existence of the industrial neighbors with the residents of Port Arthur, Texas.

Jobs and the creation of opportunities for families to thrive is the life blood of any community; Port Arthur, like any other community has an obligation to offer this to its citizens. This opportunity is made real with supporting those entities bringing about possibility for a better quality of life. Every citizen of Port Arthur does not want the LNG’s to be non-existent, however, we want this facility to comply with federal and state authorities on emissions and other regulated occurrences at the facility. Doing so, the possibilities of economic stability for the citizens increase.

Let us be the community who stands for environmental wellness and economic stability and growth.

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