



## PORTCORPUSCHRISTI

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### **Port Corpus Christi Commission Chair to Testify at House Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Trade**

*"Hearing on the Trade Implications of U.S. Energy Policy and the  
Export of Liquefied Natural Gas"*

**Corpus Christi, TX** - Port Corpus Christi Commission Chair Judy Hawley was invited by Congressman Devin Nunes, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Trade to testify at the upcoming hearing on the Trade Implications of U.S. Energy Policy and the Export of Liquefied Natural Gas. The hearing will take place on Wednesday, April 9 at 1:15 p.m. in the main Committee hearing room, 1100 Longworth House Office Building.

In announcing this hearing, Chairman Nunes said, *"As America ramps up its energy production and our trading partners seek to diversify their supplies, there is a renewed focus on the economic and geopolitical implications of exporting LNG. Increasing U.S. LNG exports could blunt Russia's ability to bully its neighbors, stabilize global energy supplies, and promote free trade and open markets around the world."*

Global energy markets and trade in energy products have undergone significant changes in the past few years, including the emergence of North America as an abundant supply source of energy. The exploration of unconventional resources has resulted in significant supply increases of natural gas and dramatically lower prices. In the last six years, U.S. reserves have increased by more than 75 percent, and U.S. natural gas prices have fallen to levels that are significantly lower than prices around the world. As a result of increased reserves, the United States has enough supply to satisfy more than 100 years of domestic needs under current demand conditions.

Given the changing energy landscape, and particularly in light of recent developments in Ukraine, many have called for reducing barriers to U.S. exports of LNG, while others have argued that reducing barriers could increase domestic prices. A recent Department of Energy (DOE) study found that overall, natural gas exports would benefit the U.S. economy and that the net economic benefits increase as the level of exports increases.

The United States has exported natural gas – largely by pipeline – since at least the 1930s. LNG was first exported from the United States in 1969 from a facility in Alaska, but operations at that facility ceased in 2012. The export

of LNG requires permitting from DOE. Permits are automatically granted unless DOE determines that exportation would “not be consistent with the public interest.” Exports to Free Trade Agreement partner nations are automatically deemed to be in the public interest. To date, 31 petitions have been filed with DOE for approval to export to non-FTA partners, and 7 have been granted. Recent legislative proposals have called for deeming exports to a broader set of countries to be consistent with the public interest.

*"Port Corpus Christi takes its responsibilities to serve this country's national security and economic security very seriously. While we are candid about the large economic benefits resulting from expanded growth of the energy sector, we also believe that federal policies supporting international energy trade benefit both South Texas and the nation."* Said Judy Hawley, Port Corpus Christi Commission Chair.

The focus of the hearing is on the trade implications of U.S. energy policy and the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG). The hearing will include: (1) the changing U.S. energy landscape and new and unconventional sources of energy; (2) the trade implications of removing barriers to U.S. LNG exports, including potential effects on the trade deficit; (3) economic implications of increased LNG exports, including creation of U.S. jobs and the effect on global supply chains and small- and medium-sized businesses; (4) geopolitical effects of increasing U.S. LNG exports; (5) issues related to energy security; and (6) the environmental impact of expanding LNG exports.

### **About Port Corpus Christi**

*As the primary economic engine of the Coastal Bend, Port Corpus Christi is the 5th largest port in the United States in total tonnage. The Port's mission statement is to "serve as a regional economic development catalyst while protecting and enhancing its existing industrial base and simultaneously working to diversify its international maritime cargo business." Strategically located on the western Gulf of Mexico, with a straight, 45' deep channel, the Port provides quick access to the Gulf and the entire United States inland waterway system. The Port delivers outstanding access to overland transportation with on-site and direct connections to three Class-1 railroads and uncongested interstate and state highways. The Port is protected by a state-of-the-art security department and an award-winning Environmental Management System. With outstanding management and operations staff, Port Corpus Christi is clearly "The Port of the Lone Star State."*  
<http://www.portofcorpuschristi.com/>

*Port Corpus Christi is a member of START (South Texas Alliance for Regional Trade), a collaborative effort that highlights business opportunities in South Texas in the manufacturing, energy, aerospace, international trade, military and other sectors and the related strategic support provided by Port San Antonio, Port Corpus Christi and Port Laredo.*  
<http://www.southtexasrade.com/>

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