January 27, 2015

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 351, the LNG Permitting Certainty and Transparency Act, introduced by Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH).

The NAM was founded over 100 years ago to promote open markets and free trade for domestic manufacturers. These principles are embedded in our policies today, including those for energy exports. Consistent with these policies, we have called on the Department of Energy (DOE) to provide applicants an up-or-down decision on license applications for new liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities as quickly as possible. The DOE recently modified its licensing procedures with the goal of making the Department “better able to ensure prompt action on applications that are otherwise ready to proceed,” but even with these new procedures in place there remain delays in making final license decisions. Continued delay likely constitutes, in and of itself, a violation of our international obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO).

H.R. 351 ensures that market forces, rather than bureaucratic inertia, govern international trade by providing a 30-day deadline for the DOE to approve or deny pending LNG export applications. It does not impact the economic, environmental or safety studies that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and other agencies are required to conduct, nor does it remove any other regulatory requirement. It would provide a clear resolution to the outstanding questions surrounding regulatory approval of the infrastructure necessary to allow the export of a product - a principle that manufacturers support.

The NAM’s Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H.R. 351, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 114th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aric Newhouse