



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, January 5, 2025

### *An Ounce of Prevention Is Worth a Pound of Cure*

Some forms of pollution are part of people's daily experience. Exposure to atmospheric pollutants produces a broad spectrum of health hazards, especially for the poor, and causes millions of premature deaths. — Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* #20

“Last January, the Biden Administration announced a **pause on approval of pending applications for liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports to countries with which the government doesn't have a free trade agreement.** (The U.S. continues to export LNG to trading partners, such as the European Union.) **The pause was meant to give the Department of Energy (DOE) time to complete an updated analysis on whether such exports are in the 'public interest,'** a required metric for approvals.

The DOE issued its analysis on December 17th. Secretary Jennifer Granholm declared that ‘a business-as-usual approach is neither sustainable nor advisable.’ She said that **additional exports could result in higher energy costs for U.S. consumers, additional pollution in communities already facing health effects from existing industry, and increases in global greenhouse gas emissions.**” (*Mercy Justice Team Earth Action Alert*, 12/23/24)

Findings from a recent analysis by the current administration are clear:

“**Triple cost threat:** Unfettered exports of LNG would increase domestic natural gas prices by over 30%, increase manufacturing costs, and increase electricity prices. American households should expect to pay an additional \$100 a year.

**Deadly:** Pollutants such as methane, volatile organic compounds, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and others lead to higher mortality rates in communities where oil and gas are extracted and processed. If volumes of LNG continue to increase, this will get worse.

**Climate destruction:** LNG exports will increase greenhouse gas emissions and displace renewable energy such as wind and solar.” (*Katie Blume, Conservation Voters of PA*, 12/23/24)

To provide some perspective, “one LNG project in Louisiana could emit pollution equivalent to 51 coal plants each year.... And **these facilities are put in areas already exposed to higher levels of pollution and climate change.** This results in higher rates of asthma, cancer, and heart disease for people living near these facilities.” (*Conservation Voters of PA*, 12/23/24)

“Early this month, more than 600 Sisters of Mercy advocates urged their U.S. senators to oppose the [Energy Permitting Reform Act \(S. 4753\)](#), which includes a sped-up approval process for LNG export terminals that threaten the health of nearby communities....

The Congress finished its work last month without voting on the bill.... But President Biden has the authority to reject currently pending permit applications for LNG export terminals before he leaves office, thus preventing the issuance of quick approvals early in 2025.” (*Mercy Justice Team Earth Action Alert*, 12/23/24)

[Take action by sending a message to President Biden now.](#)

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