Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned organizations, respectfully petition you to stop the proliferation of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export facilities. It is urgent that your Administration takes bold steps to build a green energy economy and encourage the same worldwide. Your pledge to decarbonize and replace fossil fuels with clean, renewable energy sources requires, in the first instance, rolling back the Trump Administration’s efforts to expand dirty fossil fuels and rescue the failing Oil and Gas Industry through a policy of “energy dominance”.

One action that needs to be taken immediately is to stop the implementation of Mr. Trump’s Executive Order and subsequent rulemaking to allow the transport of LNG by rail. This is a reckless and potentially catastrophic deregulation that endangers millions of Americans. We are also asking that your administration immediately stop the Trump Administration’s changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for LNG export projects that exempt facilities from review by the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) through categorical exclusions, and especially including non-FERC-jurisdictional LNG export facilities where no NEPA review had ever been performed by any federal agency. These changes undermine essential protection afforded in NEPA’s environmental review process. Furthermore, you should use your executive authority to issue an Executive Order halting gas exports to the fullest extent allowed by the Natural Gas Act. Overall, your immediate action is needed to stop the expansion of LNG that only serves special interests, puts profits over people, and leaves the public and the environment in harm’s way.

 Communities of color and those with low household incomes comprise about 38 percent of the people living within three miles of proposed LNG facilities. In addition to safety threats, public health is negatively impacted by air pollution from LNG processing, including particulate matter 2.5, total particulate matter, hazardous air pollutants such as benzene and mercury compounds, volatile organic compounds, ammonia, sulfuric acid, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen oxides. Those closest to the emission source receive the most harm from most pollutants. Furthermore, the enormous footprint of these emissions can cause damage to human health for up to 159 miles. Additionally, recent analyses show a disturbing relationship between COVID-19 and air pollution: the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases increases as PM 2.5 increases and potential death rate from the virus also rises. Throughout gas and oil extraction, development, delivery, and end use, public health is harmed, especially for those on the frontlines. The history of disproportionate current and historic environmental burdens on black and brown communities and the poor is a pattern of gross environmental injustice that is intolerable. In your January 27th “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad Executive Order”, you commit your administration to centering environmental justice in a “whole of government” approach; stopping LNG export and its infrastructure is a priority to address these oppressive inequities.

LNG is fracked methane gas that is extracted from shale formations and processed into a liquid state by cooling to minus 260 degrees F, reducing its volume by more than 600 times to facilitate storage and transport. LNG is classified as a hazardous material. When spilled, it becomes flammable and potentially explosive, posing significant and unmitigatable danger to public safety and health and to the environment. This threat to public safety accompanies every
step of LNG’s supply chain including processing, handling, transloading, storage, and transporting. The risks of potential catastrophic damage to human life and the environment posed by a fire and/or explosion from a spill or breach of an LNG container outweigh any claimed benefits of this alternative fuel.

The full life cycle of greenhouse gas emissions from extraction and liquefaction to end use are so great that, depending on amounts released and vented, they can be as bad or worse than coal in terms of atmospheric warming, exacerbating climate change. Methane is 86 times more powerful than carbon in heating the atmosphere on a 20-year time scale. LNG production increases greenhouse gas emissions at the very time we, as a nation, are supposed to be achieving substantial reductions (reducing greenhouse gases by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030) in order to do our part to combat the climate crisis.

A recent report documents that from 2018 to 2019, the oil and gas sector experienced the largest year-to-year growth in reported greenhouse gas emissions, led by LNG, which reported a 52% emissions increase. Another new report found that producing, liquefying, and transporting the gas will generate up to 213 million metric tons of new greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. alone by 2030, equal to the annual emissions of up to 45 million cars. The export of LNG for use overseas further increases emissions as the gas travels by ship, is regasified and finally burned, discharging both methane (primarily from regasification) and carbon dioxide (primarily from combustion), contravening global climate goals.

The expansion of LNG export capacity requires the proliferation of gas drilling and fracking to feed the demand created by the export market. This induces new and expanded fracking and its infrastructure, such as pipelines and, with that, environmental destruction, public health harm, and climate damage. Economic analysts explain that increasing gas takeaway capacity induces the production of gas. The higher priced markets reached through exporting LNG overseas provide incentive that would not exist for domestic natural gas otherwise. But the externalized costs for the public rise exponentially as the industry profits.

Investing in capital-intensive LNG export infrastructure increases consumption of natural gas globally and means dependence on polluting fossil fuels for decades more, displacing clean renewables and disincentivizing efficient energy use. Additionally, demand for LNG in today’s global market is in steady decline, threatening to turn LNG facilities into stranded assets. Prices for LNG hit record lows as markets globalized and U.S. LNG production soared in 2019, producing a global supply glut. In fact, today there is more LNG export capacity in development in the U.S. than was consumed globally in 2019. Policy decisions in France and Ireland in recent weeks are shutting out LNG imports, and the economic forecast for LNG is unstable at best. The growth of renewable non-fossil fuel energy sources and energy efficiencies are more economically beneficial, climate friendly, and provide more self-determination for communities. We need a secure green energy future worthy of public investment.

In conclusion, we urgently need your Administration to take bold steps to build a green and ethical energy economy. This requires rolling back the Trump Administration’s efforts to expand dirty fossil fuels and deregulate environmental protections while, at the same time, supporting
your pledge to decarbonize the economy with carbon-free, renewable, environmentally just, and energy-efficient systems. Your immediate action is needed to stop the export of LNG and its service to special interests at the expense of the public good.

Respectfully submitted,

Listed in alphabetical order:

198 methods
350 Charlotte
350 Eastside
350 Eugene
350 New Orleans
350 Philadelphia
350 Seattle
350 Silicon Valley
350.org, National
350eugene
Action Together NJ
Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN)
AMP Creeks Council
Baltimore Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter Veterans For Peace
Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMCA)
Berks Gas Truth
Better Path Coalition
Beyond Extreme Energy
Bill McKibben
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
BlueWaveNJ
Bold Alliance
Boricuas Unidos en la Diáspora
Breathe Easy Susquehanna County
Breathe Project
Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipelines
Bucks Environmental Action
Businesses for a Livable Climate
Call to Action Colorado
Camp White Pine
Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas
Cascadia Climate Action Now
CatholicNetwork.US
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Cedar.green (formerly Stop Fracked Gas-PDX/Stop Zenith Collaborative)
Center for Biological Diversity
Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War
Central Jersey Environmental Defenders
Citizens for Renewables
Clean Air Council
Clean Ocean Action
Clean Water Action - Pennsylvania
Clean Water Action, NJ State
Clean Water Action, National
Climate Change Awareness and Action
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Reality - CA
Climate Reality DFW - Plastics Working Group
Climate Reality Project - Lehigh Valley Chapter
Climate Reality Project Los Angeles Chapter
Climate Reality Project, Greater Cincinnati Chapter
Climate Reality San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
ClimateMama
CNY Solidarity Coalition Climate Justice Committee
Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ
Coalition For Peace Action - Tennessee
Coalition for Peace Action Pennsylvania
Coalition to Ban Unsafe Oil Trains
Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ
Comite Dialogo Ambiental, Inc.
Concerned Citizens Pennsylvania
Concerned Health Professionals of New York
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
DiasporaPA
DivestNJ Coalition
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Douglas County Global Warming Coalition
Earth Action, Inc.
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light
Earthworks
Edgmont Community Safety Group
El Puente - LCAN
Elizabeth Nields Clay Workshop
Employment Horizons
EMPOWER NJ
Environmental Health Project - PA
Environmental Justice Taskforce of the Western NY Peace Center
Extinction Rebellion Kentucky
Food & Water Watch
Food and Water Action Europe
FrackBustersNY
FracTracker Alliance
FreshWater Accountability Project
Friends For Environmental Justice
Friends of Buckingham
Friends of Penobscot Bay
Friends of Susan Koehne
Friends of the Earth France
Friends of the Earth US - National
Gas Free Seneca
Graduate School of Planning, University of Puerto Rico- Rio Piedras
Green Amendments For The Generations
Green America
Green Party - GA
Green Party of Allegheny County
Greenbank Associates
GreenFaith
Greenpeace USA
Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy
HEALING & PROTECTING OUR LAND TOGETHER - A CALL TO PRAYER
Healthy Gulf
Hilton Head for Peace
Honor the Earth
Howard County Climate Action, MD
Indigenous Environmental Network
Indivisible
Indivisible Lambertville New Hope
Indivisible NJ5
IWW/DSA
Izaak Walton League of America - Allegheny County chapter
JFK Democratic Club
L&R Georgia
LAWPA (Local Authority Western PA)
Lebanon Pipeline Awareness
LEPOCO Peace Center (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern)
Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper
Love Leitrim, Ireland
Marcellus Outreach Butler
MarchOnHarrisburg
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
MMR Medical
mothers against sport hunting
Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance
Mountain Watershed Association
Murrysville Watch
NC-APPPL: Alliance to Protect Our People and the Places We Live
New York Climate Action Group
New York Communities for Change
New York Water Action
NJ Forest Watch/Friends of Sparta Mountain
NJ State Industrial Union Council
NJ Student Sustainability Coalition
NJ-08 For Progress
No Methanol 360
No North Brooklyn Pipeline
North Country Earth Action
North Jersey Sierra Club
Northern New Jersey NOW
NW Philly Climate Action Network
NY Renews
NYC Grassroots Alliance
Occupy Bergen County
Oceanic Global
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Oil Change International
Onward Oregon
Orange Residents Against Pilgrim Pipelines
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Our Revolution Ocean County
OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Partnership for sustainability
PAX Christi U S A
PDA NJ
Pegasus Foundation
Pegasus Foundation, Patricia Ragan, Executive Director FLA
PennFuture
Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air
People for a Healthy Environment
People Over Pipelines
Philadelphia Be The Change
Philadelphia Neighborhood Networks Environmental Action Committee
Philly Boricuas
Philly Boricuas, Adrián Rivera-Reyes, PhD, co-founder, PA
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Plastic Pollution Coalition
Polemics Journal of the Working Class Struggle
Preserve Giles County
Preserve Montgomery County VA
Princeton Coalition for peace action
Progressives for Positive Change, Ann's Choice Senior Residence
Project CoffeeHouse
Property Rights and Pipeline Center
Protect Northern PA
Put People First! PA
Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh
Rainforest Action Network
RapidShift Network
Remark
Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT)
Resist Spectra
Resolution Media Fund
Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)
River Valley Organizing
Rogue Climate, Allie Rosenbluth, Campaigns Director, Southern Oregon
Rogue Riverkeeper
Safe Energy Rights Group
Safety Before LNG, Ireland
Sane Energy Project
SASD – New York
Save RGV, Bill Berg, Board Member, TX
Save the Pine Bush
Save the Pine Bush
Schuylkill Pipeline Awareness
Seneca Lake Guardian, A Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate
Seven Loaves DBA GOH Productions
ShaleshockCNY
SiemPResente
Sierra Club Virginia Chapter, New River Valley Group
Sierra Club, Atlantic Chapter
Sisters of St. Francis
Skylands Group-NJ Sierra Club Chapter
SOMA Action
Sourland Conservancy
South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership
Stand.earth, National
Stop Fracked Gas PDX
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development
Sunrise Movement: West Seattle branch
Sunrise Tacoma
Surfrider Foundation
Suwannee Riverkeeper, John S. Quarterman, FLA and GA
Tennessee Riverkeeper
Texas Campaign for the Environment
The alliance for sustainable communities Lehigh Valley
The Banner
The Climate Reality Project - National
The Last Plastic Straw
The Wei LLC
ThinkOcean Society
Tidewaters gateway Inc.
Turtle Island Restoration Network, Joanie Steinhaus, Gulf Program Director, National
Union Hill Freedmen Family Research Group
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County NJ
Unitarian Universalist Justice PA
Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras
UPSTREAM
UU Congregation of Binghamton, Green Sanctuary
UUJusticePA
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
Washington Environmental Council
Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc.
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Waterspirit
We The People NJ-07
Western Environmental Law Center
WildEarth Guardians
Women Against War
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Triangle
Wynwood Rehab
Zero Hour

CC: Brenda Mallory, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality