

By: Bettencourt

S.C.R. No. 32

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The United States is the world's largest producer of
3 natural gas, but antiquated trade restrictions limit the potential
4 of this industry as an engine of economic growth; and

5 WHEREAS, In the wake of the 2008-2009 recession, the
6 increasing extraction of natural gas from shale formations helped
7 lift the nation's economy; this type of gas development supported
8 more than 900,000 jobs in 2012, according to a study sponsored by
9 the United States Chamber of Commerce Institute for 21st Century
10 Energy; the majority of those jobs had been created even as overall
11 unemployment reached some of the highest levels in a generation;
12 the booming economy of Texas, a leader in shale gas and liquefied
13 natural gas production, is a testament to the importance of this
14 industry; and

15 WHEREAS, Natural gas exports also play an important
16 geopolitical role; Russia has been the dominant provider of
17 liquefied natural gas to European countries, and much of the
18 liquefied natural gas that they use flows through pipelines that
19 cross Ukraine; recent turmoil there has threatened energy supplies
20 to Europe, prompting efforts to diversify its sources of liquefied
21 natural gas; and

22 WHEREAS, Currently, an American company can export liquefied
23 natural gas only to the limited group of countries with which the
24 United States has existing free trade agreements, unless the firm

1 obtains a license by undergoing an onerous application process
2 through the Department of Energy; the review of liquefied natural
3 gas export applications has been extremely slow, resulting in
4 costly and unnecessary delays in exports to many of our trading
5 partners; moreover, this barrier contradicts the nation's historic
6 trade policy and inhibits compliance with World Trade Organization
7 rules; and

8 WHEREAS, The expansion of natural gas exports to all
9 countries within the World Trade Organization would bring the
10 United States in line with its World Trade Organization obligations
11 and build ties with East Asia and other parts of the world;
12 expediting these exports will spur additional investment in new
13 domestic production and increase global supplies of a critical
14 energy source; and

15 WHEREAS, At present, the costly and time-consuming
16 regulatory limitations on the export of natural gas hinder trade
17 expansion and job creation and work against the national security
18 interests of the United States; by ending these constraints and
19 increasing global supplies of a critical energy source, the nation
20 can strengthen its position on the world stage while allowing the
21 energy sector to amplify its vital contributions to economic
22 growth; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to expedite
25 natural gas exports; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward official copies
27 of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the

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1 president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
2 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
3 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
4 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
5 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.