

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To terminate the prohibitions on the exportation and importation of natural gas, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CASSIDY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To terminate the prohibitions on the exportation and importation of natural gas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “License Natural Gas
5 Now Act of 2019” or the “LNG Now Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the exportation of natural gas produced in
9 the United States is in the interest of the United
10 States; and

1 (2) because natural gas produced in the United
2 States has a lower greenhouse gas emissions profile
3 than other energy sources used in high volumes in
4 other countries, the exportation of natural gas from
5 the United States may help lower global emissions of
6 carbon dioxide.

7 **SEC. 3. EXPORTATION OR IMPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act
9 (15 U.S.C. 717b) is amended—

10 (1) by striking the section heading and all that
11 follows through “(a) After” and inserting the fol-
12 lowing:

13 **“SEC. 3. EXPORTATION OR IMPORTATION OF NATURAL**
14 **GAS; LNG TERMINALS.**

15 “(a) AUTHORIZATION TO EXPORT OR IMPORT NAT-
16 URAL GAS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—After”;

18 (2) in subsection (a)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1) (as so designated)—

20 (i) in the second sentence, by striking

21 “, unless,” and all that follows through the

22 period at the end of the sentence and in-

23 serting “without modification or delay.”;

24 and

1 (ii) in the third sentence, by striking
2 “by its order” and all that follows through
3 the period at the end of the sentence and
4 inserting “condition the order on a require-
5 ment that the applicant, on request, pro-
6 vide relevant data to the Commission to fa-
7 cilitate the information collection and sta-
8 tistical activities of the Commission.”; and
9 (B) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(2) PROHIBITIONS.—

11 “(A) PROHIBITION ON RESTRICTING NAT-
12 URAL GAS IMPORTATION OR EXPORTATION.—
13 Except as provided in paragraph (1) and sub-
14 paragraph (C) or in any Federal authorization
15 to export natural gas from the United States to
16 a foreign country or to import natural gas into
17 the United States from a foreign country in ef-
18 fect on the date of enactment of the LNG Now
19 Act of 2019, to promote the efficient explo-
20 ration, production, storage, supply, marketing,
21 pricing, and regulation of energy resources, in-
22 cluding fossil fuels, no employee of the Federal
23 Government shall impose or enforce any restric-
24 tion or condition on—

1 “(i) the exportation of natural gas
2 from the United States to a foreign coun-
3 try; or

4 “(ii) the importation of natural gas
5 into the United States from a foreign
6 country.

7 “(B) TREATMENT OF IMPORTED NATURAL
8 GAS.—The Commission shall not treat, on the
9 basis of national origin, any imported natural
10 gas on an unjust, unreasonable, unduly dis-
11 criminatory, or preferential basis.

12 “(C) PROHIBITION ON IMPORT FROM OR
13 EXPORT TO CERTAIN NATIONS.—The export of
14 natural gas to, or the import of natural gas
15 from, a nation subject to sanctions imposed by
16 the United States is prohibited.

17 “(3) CONSIDERATION OF EXPORTED NATURAL
18 GAS AS A FIRST SALE.—The exportation of natural
19 gas to a foreign country from the United States
20 shall be considered to be a first sale (as defined in
21 section 2 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (15
22 U.S.C. 3301)).”;

23 (3) by striking subsections (b) and (c); and

24 (4) by redesignating subsections (d) through (f)
25 as subsections (b) through (d), respectively.

1 (b) EFFECT.—The amendments made by subsection
2 (a) shall not affect any Federal authorization to export
3 natural gas from the United States to a foreign country
4 or to import natural gas into the United States from a
5 foreign country in effect on the date of enactment of this
6 Act.

7 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON FOSTERING NATURAL GAS EXPORTS.**

8 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
9 of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to Con-
10 gress a report describing actions taken by the United
11 States Government, and actions that could be taken by
12 the United States Government, to foster the exportation
13 of natural gas from the United States to foreign countries.

14 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON EXISTING REGULATIONS.**

15 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
16 of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to Con-
17 gress a report that identifies regulations in effect as of
18 such date of enactment that inhibit the growth of the mar-
19 ket for natural gas exported from the United States.