



**Testimony Presented by
Jim Snell, Business Manager
Steamfitters Local 420**

**Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee: "Examine the Role of LNG
in Strengthening American Energy Security on the World Stage"**

9 a.m. Thursday, October 27, 2022

**Steamfitters Local Union 420
14420 Townsend Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154**

Majority Chairman Yaw, Minority Chairwoman Comitta, members of the committee:
Thank you for the opportunity to testify today --- and welcome to our union hall and
training facility. We're honored to have you here and glad you came.

We're proud of the education and training programs we provide here. And we're proud
of the hardworking, professional, highly skilled men and women we turn out here.

**To be honest, this location is probably one of the most appropriate settings you
could pick for a hearing like this.**

That's because the men and women who train here have already played a crucial role in
helping Pennsylvania harness the vast potential of its energy resources, **and they will be
central in supporting the expansion of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) markets as well.**

We're proud of the work we do --- and eager to share our story.

But first, by way of background: My name is Jim Snell, Business Manager for Steamfitters
Local 420, which covers the city of Philadelphia and its collar counties, including the
Allentown and Reading areas.

All told, our union is several hundred strong and heavily engaged in Pennsylvania's energy economy.

Steamfitters Local 420 has been constructing, installing, and maintaining mechanical systems since 1903. And importantly, especially as it relates to LNG, we service the commonwealth's gas pipeline distribution system.

I mentioned earlier our education and training programs. That's how you know these pipelines and systems are built responsibly and operated safely. Our commitment to excellence means we demand more of ourselves than our clients and customers do.

And we're ready to build.

There is no reason this region can't lead the way in liquified natural gas and LNG exports, and there is no reason Pennsylvania can't be a beacon to the world by delivering the power we need at home and our allies need abroad.

I think we're at a watershed moment.

The recent conflict in Ukraine has demonstrated how critical domestic energy production is to our country's energy independence --- and to national and global security as well.

In fact, I think these geopolitical realities have muted some opponents of pipelines and related energy projects, like LNG.

In March, the White House announced that the U.S. will rapidly increase exports of liquefied natural gas to Europe as Germany and other E.U. nations try to diminish their dependence on Russian fossil fuels.

But even with a commitment like that, the construction of LNG terminals and other infrastructure still lags.

Nevertheless, I think most politicians have come to realize that if you're against pipelines, then you're for higher commodity prices, less security at home and abroad, and a weaker economy.

Energy is the driving force behind it all.

But we can't help ourselves or our allies if we can't get the fuel to market.

It's true that in recent years Pennsylvania has surpassed several states to become the United States' second-largest producer of natural gas behind only Texas. It is also true that constraints in pipeline infrastructure have held us back from reaching our full potential, restraining our economy and limiting what we can do for foreign partners.

If we truly want to invest in LNG, then we need to build the infrastructure to support it.

Some may not like it, or they simply don't want to admit it, but traditional energy sources, including LNG, are going to remain a vital part of our energy mix and homeland security plans, and pipelines remain the safest and most efficient way to deliver those resources to market and ultimately to our allies overseas.

Building out LNG infrastructure won't be easy.

The reality is that right now we have cases where our resources cannot get to markets that need them because of unnecessary regulations that block pipeline development or opponents who delay construction.

But the benefits of liquified natural gas and LNG exports are many.

It will require skilled laborers to build the infrastructure. A trained workforce to operate the systems. Sustained investments in the communities where facilities are built. More activity in the areas of Pennsylvania where we drill for gas. It's economic expansion, job opportunities, and enhanced security.

Energy is sometimes a divisive issue, but one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on is the need to become more independent and less reliant on foreign sources, and to have the resources available for use by us and others.

The conflict in Ukraine puts an exclamation point on that notion, where our allies are more reliant on energy supplies from our adversaries than us, making the world less secure and putting us in a bad place despite all the resources we have at home.

We understand the collective efforts that need to be made to protect our environment and address climate change, while also protecting our manufacturing and related industries --- and the good-paying jobs they provide for skilled laborers.

It makes no sense to let this clean-burning, abundant resource go unused.

As head of Steamfitters Local 420, I know firsthand the value of good-paying, energy-related jobs. I see them every day. Truly, these projects have been a lifeline for Pennsylvania's construction trades.

LNG is the next big step.

We have the resources here. We have the workforce here. We have the easy access to ports here. And we have a legacy as a nation of stepping up and leading when others need our help.

Given the current energy crises, continued investment in energy projects is more important than ever. Pennsylvania has been unwavering in its stance on affordable, clean energy --- and the Greater Philadelphia region is ready to move this tradition forward.

Majority Chairman Yaw, Minority Chairwoman Comitta, members of the committee:
Thank you again for your time. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

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