

**Testimony Before the Pennsylvania Senate Energy and Environmental Resources Committee
House Bill 2458
Thursday, October 27, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Steamfitters Local 420**

Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

My name is Hasna Achik. I am the Manager of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia's Energy Initiatives, including our Energy Action Team. The action team is made up of industry and business leaders involved in the energy sector as well as various firms that service those companies. Our membership includes oil and natural gas companies, ports, pipelines, utilities, law firms, and renewable energy businesses.

The Chamber recognizes that energy is a catalyst for economic growth and job creation in our 11-county region. With a high concentration of energy companies, we believe Pennsylvania and Greater Philadelphia can leverage its abundant, affordable energy resources to power innovation and business growth.

We applaud Rep. Martina White for introducing the bill and the committee for passage of this important measure. I also want to thank Steamfitters Local 420 for hosting today's hearing. They are a member of our action team and key partners in our efforts to grow jobs in the region.

Through the Port of Philadelphia, we believe Pennsylvania is well positioned to supply natural gas to our region and the world. Our chamber fully supports the creation of a taskforce to study how to further advance LNG exports and examine what barriers may exist that need to be addressed.

As we know, Pennsylvania has an abundant supply of natural gas for here at home and abroad. The world class Port of Philadelphia can become a leader in exporting liquified natural gas (LNG) to supply the energy needs of people all around the world.

In addition, LNG unlocks a cleaner fuel source for utilities, power generation, and transportation. It is safe, affordable and reduces emissions by half when compared to commonly used fuel sources like diesel.

In September, the American Petroleum Institute released an analysis of Europe's natural gas market and highlighted the immense potential of U.S. liquified natural gas to help Europe strengthen its energy security. The study found that new long-term supplies from abundant and affordable resources could fully replace Russian natural gas and rebalance the European market.

The benefits of LNG are far-reaching. Additional energy access will mean manufacturers with energy-intensive processes could consider expanding their operations and growing jobs. Energy insecure families will see lower bills, small businesses, schools, and hospitals wrecked by the havoc of the war in Ukraine will have some cost certainty and relief.

Moreover, our region's industrial legacy, talent, and strategic location matched with an increased supply of affordable natural gas will position Greater Philadelphia to draw new high-wage manufacturing opportunities to our region—when they are needed most.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. We look forward to the findings of the taskforce.

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