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Natural gas export ban would be costly

As America's shale boom increases the domestic supply of natural gas, U.S. companies such as Dominion and Cheniere Energy prudently have used avenues to export natural gas to countries in Europe and Asia where higher demand translates into higher prices. Despite the private sector's willingness to invest billions of dollars in our country to develop the physical infrastructure necessary to export this "made in the USA" product, some in Washington are seeking to derail this economic boost by encouraging denial of export permits by the Obama administration's Department of Energy.

Rep. Ed Markey, Massachusetts Democrat, along with a few other lawmakers on Capitol Hill, is clamoring for the agency to say no to U.S. exports, despite the job growth and revenue-generating potential associated with these projects. These misguided demands for the government to curtail American natural gas exports are in contravention of our national interests, defying both economics and logic.

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Costs of Obama's Expected No On Keystone

President Obama has pledged to double U.S. exports by 2015. Why? Because the President understands that in order to grow our economy, goods produced in the U.S.A. must be able to compete on the world stage.

This view is correct and supported by facts—economists often note the direct correlation between exports and economic growth. For example, as exports increase, analysts note that our Gross Domestic Product ("GDP") follows suit along nearly a 1:1 ratio. That means $100 million of U.S. exports creates approximately $100 million in U.S. domestic economic growth. By the same token, that means if we import $100 million more in foreign goods and services, our economy actually shrinks by that amount.

Ironically, many of the same politicians calling to reduce America's trade deficit (President Obama among them) are also the ones framing "export" as a four-letter word when it comes to the Keystone XL project.

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