

Reality Check

Here's what a few of our energy allies overseas said immediately after the pause was announced on January 26:

"We are concerned that the temporary suspension of export permits will delay the start of new LNG production from the U.S. ... We would like to carefully examine the medium to long-term impact of the issue and take necessary steps to ensure that Japan's stable energy supply is not compromised."

-Ken Saito,
Japan Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

"The current dynamic we are seeing unfold is highly worrying. It is eroding these fundamental market principles and will harm global energy security and emission reduction."

-Menelaos Ydreos,
Secretary General of the International Gas Union

Does LNG Stand for Lame National Government?

By all accounts, President Joe Biden's pause on considering new liquified natural gas (LNG) terminals in the U.S., announced on January 26, 2024, has been painted as a pure political decision in an election year, contrary to any common sense policy-making and in conflict with earlier positions taken by the administration about the importance of these facilities.

Shale gas production resulted in the construction and current operation of seven new LNG facilities being built along the Gulf Coast, with more than 14 in various stages of permitting and development.

Here's what members of the Biden Administration have said in the past about exporting American-produced natural gas, including shipments to countries seeking to reduce their dependence on Russian energy:

- ✦ **U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken:** The U.S. is "now the leading supplier of LNG to Europe to help compensate for any gas or oil that it's losing as a result of Russia's aggression against Ukraine." (2022)
- ✦ **U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm:** "I believe U.S. LNG exports can have an important role to play in reducing international consumption of fuels that have greater contribution to greenhouse gas emissions." (2021)
- ✦ **U.S. Climate Envoy John Podesta:** "The United States should do everything it can to support its European allies as they try to reduce their dependence on Russian natural gas." (2022)
- ✦ **U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel:** "LNG can be a major contributor – with the reduction of methane – both on the global energy stability and security for every country but also a contributor to our collective individual goals, our collective and individual goals as countries in seeing and meeting our objective by 2050 in net-zero." (2023)

The Reality Check

The Biden Administration's January action – with no firm end date in sight – has put the future of the country's LNG infrastructure in a state of disarray, and put our allies' energy future at risk.