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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 13, 2020

**REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE**  
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**DEPUTY REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE**

Mr. Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

Thank you for your diligence and perseverance in your successful trade negotiations with Canada and Mexico. USMCA will undoubtedly have a significant impact on the U.S. economy and that of my home state, Louisiana. In light of the USMCA victory and the looming January 31 Brexit date, I write to urge you to engage in bilateral trade negotiations with the United Kingdom to secure an agreement that will be mutually beneficial to the American people and Britain. If you elect to enter into such negotiations, I respectfully request that you keep in mind the priorities of Louisiana, as they are in lock-step with your goal of American Energy Dominance and will have a tremendous impact on the overall economy and business climate.

As you know, the Louisiana economy is inextricably linked to global trade. Despite its comparatively small population and GDP, Louisiana ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in 2018 among all states in total exports.<sup>1</sup> Many of the state's top export categories are closely tied to domestic energy production, and as you observed in your May 2019 visit to the Cameron LNG export facility, Louisiana is undergoing an energy renaissance — thanks in large part to your America first policies.

As Louisiana's position as a leading exporter has solidified, so too have our trading relationships with countries around the world, including the United Kingdom, which ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> among European countries as a destination for Louisiana exports.<sup>2</sup> On the other side of the coin, the U.K. reciprocates by heavily investing in Louisiana. Collectively, British companies are the largest foreign employer in Louisiana, supporting over 16,000 high-skilled and high-paying jobs.<sup>3</sup>

I raise this to your attention because I believe a formalized, bilateral agreement between the United States and a post-Brexit United Kingdom has the potential to strengthen our nation's position as one of the world's top exporters of energy, and Louisiana can certainly play a critical

<sup>1</sup> Office of the United States Trade Representative, State Benefits of Trade, Louisiana. Retrieved from <https://ustr.gov/map/state-benefits/la>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Chamber of Commerce. *The Transatlantic Economy 2019 State by State Analysis*. Retrieved from [https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/te2019 - state\\_profiles.pdf](https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/te2019 - state_profiles.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

role in this endeavor. Just last year, Britain became a top-10 importer of American liquefied natural gas (LNG), and it appears that its demand for U.S. LNG will increase in the years ahead.<sup>4</sup>

With many new LNG facilities scheduled to come online in the near future, Louisiana's export capacity is steadily growing. Facilitating LNG shipments to the United Kingdom will not only benefit the economy of our state and country, but also provide energy stability to one of our closest allies. Moreover, once American LNG makes its way into Britain, it can then be funneled to mainland Europe by pipeline, further benefitting the continent by reducing reliance on Russian gas. As former Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry stated, "energy policy is not just a vital element of U.S. economic policy, but also a vital element of U.S. foreign policy...one of the most important actions we can take is to use our massive shale gas resources to begin shipping Liquefied Natural Gas overseas."<sup>5</sup>

The Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission have clearly prioritized streamlining the LNG export and infrastructure development process. I believe a logical next step is to extend this priority status to future trade negotiations with our allies.

Consequently, I respectfully request that you consider entering into trade negotiations with the post-Brexit United Kingdom, particularly in furtherance of our shared ambitions for an energy dominant United States.

Sincerely,



Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress

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<sup>4</sup> Shiryaevskaya, A., Dezem, V., Carr, M., *Britain is Brimming with Natural Gas*. Retrieved from <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-04-29/britain-brimming-with-natural-gas-as-lng-imports-hit-a-record>

<sup>5</sup> Statement by Rick Perry, U.S. Secretary of Energy, on LNG Shipments to the Netherlands and Poland (June 9, 2017) Retrieved from <https://www.energy.gov/articles/statement-rick-perry-us-secretary-energy-lng-shipments-netherlands-poland>