

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6851

To amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to ban the export of natural gas produced in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to ban the export of natural gas produced in the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Lowering American
5 Energy Costs Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the Federal Government has repeatedly
2 found that natural gas exports lead to increased do-
3 mestic gas and electricity prices, as evidenced by—

4 (A) a November 2025 analysis by the En-
5 ergy Information Administration, which pre-
6 dicts that natural gas prices in 2026 will be 16
7 percent higher than in 2025 due to increased
8 liquefied natural gas (referred to in this section
9 as “LNG”) exports;

10 (B) a December 2024 study by the De-
11 partment of Energy, which determined that—

12 (i) unconstrained exports of United
13 States LNG are projected to increase
14 wholesale domestic natural gas prices by
15 31 percent by 2050, not accounting for the
16 additional price impact of LNG exports on
17 natural gas price volatility;

18 (ii) volatility in the global natural gas
19 market will further increase costs on do-
20 mestic consumers and industry as United
21 States natural gas exports increase;

22 (iii) United States households will pay
23 up to an additional \$122 per year on aver-
24 age in higher natural gas and electricity
25 costs by 2050; and

1 (iv) the United States industrial sec-
2 tor will pay an additional
3 \$125,000,000,000 in higher energy costs
4 by 2050 as a result of rising United States
5 LNG exports;

6 (C) a January 2024 report from the En-
7 ergy Information Administration, which found
8 that, in the United States, the price of natural
9 gas is the most important driver of wholesale
10 electricity prices because natural gas is often
11 the highest-cost fuel for electricity generation;

12 (D) a 2018 study by the Department of
13 Energy, which found that “producing incre-
14 mental natural gas volumes to support natural
15 gas exports will increase the marginal cost of
16 supplying natural gas and therefore raise do-
17 mestic natural gas prices.”; and

18 (E) a 2012 study by the Energy Informa-
19 tion Administration, which found that “in-
20 creased natural gas exports lead to increased
21 natural gas prices.” and that “larger export lev-
22 els lead to larger domestic price increases, while
23 rapid increases in export levels lead to large ini-
24 tial price increases.”;

1 (2) according to research by Public Citizen,
2 from January 2025 through September 2025, house-
3 holds in the United States paid \$12,000,000,000
4 more for natural gas than from the same period in
5 2024, a 22 percent price increase that translates to
6 a roughly \$124 price hike for the average household;

7 (3) according to the Institute for Energy Eco-
8 nomics and Financial Analysis, surging United
9 States LNG exports from September 2021 to De-
10 cember 2022 led to the sharpest rise of wholesale
11 gas prices in over a decade, costing domestic con-
12 sumers \$111,000,000,000 in higher energy bills;

13 (4) the United States is already the largest pro-
14 ducer of natural gas and largest exporter of LNG in
15 the world, and continues to set records for LNG ex-
16 ports, including that—

17 (A) in 2025, the United States had mul-
18 tiple record-setting months for LNG exports;
19 and

20 (B) in October 2025, the United States be-
21 came the first country in the world to surpass
22 10,000,000 metric tons worth of LNG exports
23 in a single month;

24 (5) natural gas is primarily composed of meth-
25 ane, which is a dangerous greenhouse gas and the

1 second-largest contributor to atmospheric warming;
2 and

3 (6) natural gas infrastructure, including pipe-
4 lines and LNG terminals, lead to significant negative
5 health outcomes for communities surrounding the
6 pipelines and terminals, which is compounded by the
7 fact that new natural gas infrastructure is dis-
8 proportionately sited in communities that already
9 have polluting infrastructure.

10 **SEC. 3. DOMESTIC USE OF ENERGY SUPPLIES AND RE-**
11 **LATED MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Energy Policy and Conserva-
13 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.) is amended by inserting
14 after section 101 the following:

15 **“SEC. 102. DOMESTIC USE OF ENERGY SUPPLIES AND RE-**
16 **LATED MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT.**

17 “(a) EXPORT RESTRICTIONS.—The President, by
18 rule, under such terms and conditions as the President
19 determines to be appropriate and necessary to carry out
20 the purposes of this Act, shall restrict exports of natural
21 gas for the purpose of keeping domestic energy costs low.

22 “(b) PROHIBITION OF EXPORT OF NATURAL GAS.—

23 “(1) RULE.—Subject to paragraph (2), the
24 President shall exercise the authority provided under

1 subsection (a) to promulgate a rule prohibiting the
2 export of natural gas produced in the United States.

3 “(2) EXEMPTIONS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with
5 subparagraph (A), the President may exempt
6 from a prohibition on the export of natural gas
7 under paragraph (1) any natural gas exports
8 that the President determines—

9 “(i) to be consistent with the national
10 interest and will not unreasonably raise
11 costs for residential consumers; or

12 “(ii) to be critical for the national se-
13 curity of—

14 “(I) the United States; or

15 “(II) a country that is a strategic
16 international partner or ally of the
17 United States.

18 “(B) CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.—Before
19 any exemption issued by the President may go
20 into effect, the exemption must be approved by
21 a joint resolution of Congress.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

23 (1) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
24 tents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act

1 (42 U.S.C. prec. 6201) is amended by inserting
2 after the item relating to section 101 the following:

“102. Domestic use of energy supplies and related materials and equipment.”.

3 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 101
4 of division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,
5 2016 (42 U.S.C. 6212a), is amended by striking
6 subsections (b) through (d).

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