

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8020

To exempt certain vessels transporting liquefied natural gas from certain coastwise endorsement requirements, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2026

Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. ROY, and Mr. DAVIDSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To exempt certain vessels transporting liquefied natural gas from certain coastwise endorsement requirements, 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 “American LNG First
5 Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXEMPTION FROM COASTWISE LAWS FOR VESSELS**
2 **TRANSPORTING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS.**

3 (a) GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Sec-
4 tion 12103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 “(d) EXCEPTION FOR VESSELS TRANSPORTING LIQ-
7 UEFIED NATURAL GAS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection
9 (a), a certificate of documentation may be issued
10 under this chapter for any vessel transporting meth-
11 ane, refrigerated liquid, commonly known as lique-
12 fied natural gas.

13 “(2) CERTAIN VESSELS EXCLUDED.—Para-
14 graph (1) shall not apply to—

15 “(A) a vessel that is owned, in whole or in
16 part, by—

17 “(i) a Russian national; or

18 “(ii) the Government of the Russian
19 Federation;

20 “(B) a Russian-flagged vessel;

21 “(C) a vessel for which any crewmember is
22 a Russian national;

23 “(D) a vessel that is owned in whole or in
24 part, by—

25 “(i) a Chinese national; or

1 “(ii) the Government of the People’s
2 Republic of China;
3 “(E) a Chinese-flagged vessel; or
4 “(F) a vessel for which any crewmember is
5 a Chinese national.”.

6 (b) COASTWISE ENDORSEMENT.—Section
7 12112(a)(2)(B) of title 46, United States Code, is amend-
8 ed—

9 (1) in clause (ii) by striking “or” at the end;
10 (2) in clause (iii) by striking “and” at the end
11 and inserting “or”; and
12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(iv) transports methane, refrigerated liq-
14 uid, commonly known as liquefied natural gas;
15 and”.

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