



*A coalition committed to creating a more liquid global natural gas marketplace, expanding fuel diversity, and enhancing energy security.*

## Background

Long before the crisis in Ukraine, America's allies in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and other regions were actively urging federal decision-makers to lift the self-imposed restrictions which impede the flow of U.S. natural gas into the global market. Many of these countries were—and remain—overly dependent upon a monolithic supplier for the natural gas needed to heat their homes and run their factories.

As the full extent of America's shale gas bonanza became evident, leaders of these nations realized that their energy security could be increased significantly if they could diversify their fuel sources by gaining access to the U.S. natural gas market. Standing in their way then—and now—is the slow and opaque process by which the Department of Energy (DOE) considers applications to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) to nations that do not yet have a free trade agreement with the United States (non-FTA nations).<sup>1</sup>

## LNG Allies

Beginning in late 2013, several CEE governments began working with leading energy trade associations to form a coalition that could work to change the status quo.

Incorporated in March 2014, LNG Allies, Inc.<sup>2</sup> is a 501(c)(6) "business league," comprised of associations, nonprofit organizations, and an advisory group known as the "Council of Embassies." We are actively recruiting both corporate and nonprofit members from the United States, Europe, and other regions.

Fred H. Hutchison, senior consultant at Cornerstone Government Affairs, serves as the executive director of LNG Allies and Eric Tober, a Cornerstone vice president, leads the advocacy team.

Our advocacy efforts are focused on the administration—which has ample authority to speed up the pace by which DOE considers LNG export applications to non-FTA nations—and on Congress which can either change the law to deem exports to America's NATO and other allies to be "in the public interest" (as is now the case for exports to FTA nations), or otherwise expedite the DOE review process.

Additional information is available on our website: [www.lngallies.com](http://www.lngallies.com)

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1. Applications to export LNG to nations that have a free trade agreement with the United States (that includes the national treatment of natural gas) are, by federal statute, deemed to be in the "public interest" and must be approved "promptly" and "without modification."

2. The full LNG Allies membership roster is not publicly disclosed. However, we make regular public disclosures under both the Foreign Agents Registration Act and the Lobbying Disclosure Act.