

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3661

To amend the Natural Gas Act to authorize expedited approval of applications to export natural gas to certain allies of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 16, 2022

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Natural Gas Act to authorize expedited approval of applications to export natural gas to certain allies of 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 “Expediting Natural
5 Gas Exports to Allies Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATURAL GAS EXPORTS TO ALLIES AND STRATEGIC**
7 **PARTNERS.**

8 (a) FINDING.—Congress finds that expediting the ap-
9 proval of natural gas export applications for projects in-

1 tended to increase the capacity of the United States to
 2 export natural gas to allies and strategic partners will—

3 (1) empower United States natural gas export-
 4 ers to better assist the strategic and national secu-
 5 rity interests of the United States and allies and
 6 strategic partners of the United States; and

7 (2) lead to job growth, economic development,
 8 and energy security.

9 (b) NATURAL GAS EXPORTS.—Section 3(c) of the
 10 Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended—

11 (1) by striking “(c) For purposes” and insert-
 12 ing the following:

13 “(c) EXPEDITED APPLICATION AND APPROVAL
 14 PROCESS.—

15 “(1) DEFINITION OF COVERED NATION.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In this subsection, the
 17 term ‘covered nation’—

18 “(i) means an ally described in section
 19 3(b)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act
 20 (22 U.S.C. 2753(b)(2)); and

21 “(ii) during the period described in
 22 subparagraph (B), includes Cyprus, Fin-
 23 land, Moldova, Sweden, Taiwan, and
 24 Ukraine.

1 “(B) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—The period de-
 2 scribed in this subparagraph is the period—

3 “(i) beginning on the date of enact-
 4 ment of the Expediting Natural Gas Ex-
 5 ports to Allies Act; and

6 “(ii) ending on December 31, 2026, or
 7 such later date as the President determines
 8 is in the interest of national defense (as
 9 defined in section 702 of the Defense Pro-
 10 duction Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4552)) or
 11 is otherwise in the interests of the United
 12 States.

13 “(2) EXPEDITED APPROVAL.—Except as pro-
 14 vided in paragraph (3), for purposes”;

15 (2) in paragraph (2) (as so designated), by in-
 16 serting “the exportation of natural gas to a covered
 17 nation,” before “or the exportation”; and

18 (3) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(3) EXCLUSIONS.—

20 “(A) NATIONS SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS.—

21 The Commission shall not grant expedited ap-
 22 proval under paragraph (2) of an application
 23 for exportation of natural gas to any nation
 24 that is subject to sanctions or trade restrictions
 25 imposed by the United States.

1 “(B) NATIONS DESIGNATED BY CON-
2 GRESS.—The Commission shall not grant expe-
3 dited approval under paragraph (2) of an appli-
4 cation for exportation of natural gas to any na-
5 tion designated by an Act of Congress as ex-
6 cluded from such expedited approval for reasons
7 of national security.”.

8 (c) EFFECT.—The amendments made by subsection
9 (b) shall not affect any Federal authorization to export
10 natural gas from the United States to a foreign nation
11 or to import natural gas into the United States from a
12 foreign nation that is in effect on the date of enactment
13 of this Act.

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