

April 19, 2022

The Honorable Joe Manchin Committee on Energy & Natural Resources Chairman U.S. Senate 304 Dirksen Senate Building Washington, DC 20510

RE: LNG Consumer Safety Valve Legislation

Dear Chairman Manchin:

We are writing to ask the Senate to act to establish an LNG Consumer Safety Valve to protect American food manufacturing companies. The members of the Apple Processors Association are fruit processing companies. These food manufacturers have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to make sure apple products are available for grocery stores, restaurants, schools, and healthcare facilities.

However, these companies use a significant amount of energy, including oil, natural gas, and electricity to produce safe and nutritious fruit products. Our member companies do everything possible to conserve energy, reduce energy consumption, and create energy in a sustainable manner (such as biogas from fruit solids and solar panels). However, despite these efforts, we are now facing another threat from the market-power of foreign country purchases of LNG.

We respectfully, but strongly, urge the Senate to take action and create a LNG Consumer Safety Valve, to protect the food processing industry.

It is imperative that the U.S. not surrender the advantage that our natural resources provide us. Food manufacturing already faces small profit margins, coupled with the various challenges faced over recent years, including the pandemic, labor issues, inflation, and recent energy costs. Our members process perishable fruit products and must have reliable, affordable energy that we can rely upon to get food from the farm to consumers' tables at a price that both they can afford, and with a profit margin that allows us to remain in business.

Absent any action to establish an LNG Consumer Safety Valve, both will be placed in jeopardy for the members of the Apple Processors Association, as well as all American manufacturers.

If APA can be of additional assistance or you'd like to discuss this matter in more detail, please reach out to us.

On a personal note, I am a constituent of yours and reside in beautiful Berkeley County, West Virginia. Thank you for all you do for our state and our country.

Sincerely,

Andrea Ball President

**Apple Processors Association** 

andrea@appleprocessors.org

301.335.2715 - mobile

Apple Processors Association 1701 K Street, NW, Ste 700 Washington, DC 20006 www.appleprocessors.org