

August XX, 2017

The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Perry,

Since 1977, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) has provided invaluable information on the country's energy sector. Public and private entities make informed decisions thanks to the detailed data and forecasting that EIA provides. While the federal government has tracked propane exports since 1973, EIA does not currently incorporate propane export volumes in their calculation for remaining days of supply. I urge you to include propane export volumes within EIA's analysis of remaining days of supply to increase transparency and provide certainty for energy producers.

As American energy producers have increased production, exporting petroleum products around the world has become a more common practice. In fact, propane has seen one of the more dramatic export increases—from 131 thousand barrels per day (bpd) in January 2010 to 1.054 million bpd in December 2016, an eight-fold increase. The December 2016 mark of 1.05 million bpd is the highest export mark for propane since reporting began in 1973.

Due to an increase in export terminals and pipeline construction projects, transporting propane to shipping terminals is becoming more cost effective and we can only expect the demand for American propane to continue to grow worldwide. Because of this, I believe it is important to incorporate propane export volumes in EIA's calculation for remaining days of supply to ensure an accurate accounting of domestic propane stocks. The energy industry needs certainty to operate at its best and incorporating further information for our remaining days of supply would avoid confusion in the marketplace and increase supply security for our country during the winter months when we need propane the most.

I look forward to working with you to achieve our common goal of stability for our energy markets.

Sincerely,

Heidi Heitkamp
U.S. Senator