

OPINION

Letter to the Editor

A letter from Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry (PABI)

Dear Editor:

When this year began, some of my goals as chairwoman of the Plaquemines Association of Business & Industry (PABI) were to work toward economic diversity and development for our parish.

With those goals in mind, it is especially fitting that I write here to publicly express PABI's full support for a multibillion dollar project that stands to not only diversify our local economy, but also provide jobs and long-term stability. I'm referring to Venture Global LNG's planned liquefied natural gas export project, Plaquemines LNG, that is poised to bring American natural gas to markets around the world from facilities right here in Plaquemines Parish.

Plaquemines LNG has our support because it stands to create as many as 1,500 jobs during each of its two construction phases (beginning in 2017) as well as 300 long-term, permanent (and good-paying) jobs. It also has our support because I know firsthand that Plaquemines LNG is dedicated to being a good neighbor – even now, as the project moves through the early regulatory approval stages. From its careful consideration to minimize the project's environmental impact, to engaging the community in open dialogue to address questions or concerns, Plaquemines LNG has shown a commitment to community that goes well beyond economic benefits.

I've met with many community leaders in recent months, and a common theme was the necessity of Plaquemines Parish not relying on just one industry. I believe that Plaquemines LNG will bring a new, dynamic industry to our parish, and as PABI's 2015 chairwoman, I look forward to seeing the economic development and all the benefits that will be created.

PABI has supported the Plaquemines Port's expansion plans since first presented to us by Executive Director Sandy Sanders. It is exciting to see a major project underway with a company like Venture Global.

Denise Buford
2015 Chairwoman, PABI