

29 May 2025

To:

Mr. Ishiba Shigeru, Prime Minister of Japan

Mr. Muto Yoji, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan (METI)

Mr. Akazawa Ryosei, Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization of Japan

Japan must reject investment in the risky and uneconomic Alaska LNG project

We are 154 groups from Japan and around the world concerned with the environmental crisis and the economy. This early June, the US President Donald Trump's National Energy Dominance Council is planning a summit meeting on the proposed USD 44 billion Alaska LNG project, and it has been reported that the US's aim is to pressure the leaders of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, India and others to invest in this egregious project¹. Investing in this costly and climate-wrecking project will harm local communities, the environment and the planet, and poses a serious economic burden for the Japanese economy. We request that the Japanese leaders refuse support for the project.

White elephant project has faced decades-long delays

The Alaska LNG project would transport gas from the North Slope fields via a 1,300km pipeline for domestic use and for export to Asia. The hugely uneconomic Alaska LNG Project has failed to get off the ground for decades. The project has been kept afloat by the State of Alaska and the state-backed entity, Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC). The budget of the project has fluctuated dramatically over the last 15 years, and current cost estimates are at least \$44 billion². These costs would likely skyrocket due to increased construction costs and tariffs on imported steel.³

There are clear reservations among industry leaders even though there is a strong political push by the Trump administration. In March, Japan Gas Association Chair and CEO of Tokyo Gas, Takeshi Uchida, said that Alaska LNG would be "twice the cost of conventional LNG development."⁴ Potential buyers, including Japanese and Korean companies, have expressed strong doubts about its economic feasibility and have refused to participate in the project for years⁵. Without subsidization from Japan or the U.S. the project will not likely move forward.

Moreover, Japan is facing surplus issues and does not need additional LNG. In Japan, almost 40% of the LNG handled by Japanese companies is resold overseas⁶. Demand for LNG is also weakening in Korea⁷. The project will not start until 2030 at the earliest. For several months, President Trump has been bullying overseas buyers in Asia, seeking to use potential commitments to Alaska LNG as a way to prevent tariffs. Japan, Taiwan, and Korea, among others, have

¹ [US plans Alaska LNG summit, will urge Japan, South Korea to support project](#), April 26, 2025, Reuters

² [Alaska's pipe dream: The economic folly of the North Slope gasline](#), January 23, 2025, Pacific Environment

³ [Prices, not politics, will shape U.S. LNG flows to Japan going forward](#), February 27, 2025, IEEFA

⁴ [Japan gas industry head says higher US LNG imports must be mutually beneficial](#), March 19, 2025, Reuters

⁵ [Wall Street Journal: Limited interest in Alaska LNG from Asian buyers](#), August 28, 2023, Alaska Public Media

⁶ [Results of the FY2024 Surveys: LNG Handling Volume and Destination Restrictions in SPAs by Japanese Companies](#), November 18, 2024, JOGMEC

⁷ [South Korea scrapping mega-scale LNG terminal projects amid weakening demand, overinvestment risks](#), August 01, 2024, IEEFA

responded by issuing statements of interest for LNG coming out of Alaska. It is very risky and damaging for Asian buyers to use LNG as a card for the deal. It would lock buyers in Asia into contracts that require them to purchase this overpriced gas for decades, while renewable energy gets much cheaper.

There is no demonstrable economic benefit to Japan or neighboring countries in supporting this high-cost project. The project's viability appears contingent on Japanese public finance. Yet, such support would disproportionately benefit a narrow set of interests, rather than delivering value to Japanese industries or consumers across Asia.

The project will harm the community and the environment

Not only the financial cost, but environmental and social costs of the project will be enormous.

According to EarthJustice, the project would be capable of exporting 20 million metric tons of gas per year — a quantity that could result in over 50 million metric tons of carbon dioxide pollution emissions annually⁸. In the report published in 2023 by the International Energy Agency titled “Net Zero Roadmap: A Global Pathway to keep the 1.5°C Goal in Reach⁹”, the report reiterated the conclusion of the 2021 report that in order to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, there is no room for developing new fossil fuel extraction projects. Clearly, there is no room for the Alaska LNG to be developed.

Additionally, the North Slope, which is the natural gas drilling site for the project, is located near the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), a traditional living area of the indigenous Gwich'in people and one of the most pristine areas with diverse wildlife including polar bears facing extinction. Gas extraction in this region risks serious human rights violations and environmental damage¹⁰. The gas would be exported to Asian markets from a marine terminal on the eastern shore of the Cook Inlet in Nikiski. Cook Inlet, a sensitive water body that offers critical habitat for endangered beluga whales, could see large vessel traffic increase by nearly 75%¹¹.

The Arctic continues to warm at a faster rate than the global average¹², and the state is on the verge of even more catastrophic change due to warming. Alaska's salmon are also severely affected at every stage of life by climate change¹³. The tens of thousands of Alaskans who depend on fishing for income and subsistence are immediately threatened by the carbon emissions that LNG projects lock in¹⁴.

Several major banks, including HSBC¹⁵ and RBC¹⁶, have policies that restrict drilling in the Arctic area for climate and environmental concerns. Japanese non-life insurers - Tokio Marine, SOMPO,

⁸ [Alaska LNG Project](#) EarthJustice (accessed on May,22,2025)

⁹ [Net Zero Roadmap: A Global Pathway to Keep the 1.5 °C Goal in Reach](#), September 2023, IEA

¹⁰ see footnote 8

¹¹ see footnote 8

¹² [Arctic Report Card: Update for 2024](#), 2024, NOAA

¹³ [Chinook salmon declines related to changes in freshwater conditions](#), Jul 13, 2020, Cook Inletkeeper

¹⁴ [Japan must resist Trump's Alaska LNG pet project](#), May 12, 2025, Ben Boettger and Susanne Wong

¹⁵ [HSBC to stop financing most new coal plants, oil sands, arctic drilling](#), April 20, 2018, Reuters

¹⁶ [Policy Guidelines for Sensitive Sectors and Activities](#), RBC

and MS&AD also have policies restricting new underwriting and investment in oil and gas extraction projects in the Arctic; the North Slope is also excluded from their underwriting¹⁷.

It is clear that the Alaska LNG project would bring catastrophic impacts to both local communities and the planet.

Japan must say no to Alaska LNG for people and planet

Japan is facing a pivotal decision. They must decide whether to invest in the risky, uneconomic Alaska LNG project promoted by President Trump or instead invest precious resources in renewables and safeguard our communities and our climate. Investing in more LNG will worsen the climate crisis and saddle the public with risks. We urge Japanese leaders, private financiers, and companies to say no to the Alaska LNG project and put this economic boondoggle to rest once and for all.

CC:

Mr. Hayashi Nobumitsu, Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

Mr. Kuroda Atsuo, Chairman & CEO of Nippon Export and Investment Insurance

Mr. Takahara Ichiro, Chairman & CEO of Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC)

Mr. Ueda Takayuki, President & CEO of INPEX

Mr. Okuda Hisahide, President, CEO and COO of JERA

Mr. Sasayama Shinichi, President & CEO of Tokyo Gas

Mr. Nakanishi Katsuya, President & CEO of Mitsubishi Corporation

Mr. Hori Kenichi, President & CEO of Mitsui & Co.

Mr. Kamezawa Hironori, President & CEO of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG)

Mr. Kihara Masahiro, President & CEO of Mizuho Financial Group

Mr. Nakashima Toru, President & CEO of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)

Signatories:

FoE Japan	Japan
Kiko Network	Japan
Mekong Watch	Japan
Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)	Japan
350.org Japan	Japan
Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC)	Japan
Pacific Asia Resource Center (PARC)	Japan
Rainforest Action Network	Global

¹⁷ [Unfeasible; the promotion of the Alaska LNG development agreed at the Japan-US Summit](#), February 20, 2025,

Growthwatch	India
Indian Social Action Forum	India
PMCJ	Philippines
Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN)	Bangladesh
For a Better Bayou	USA
Vessel Project of Louisiana	United States
Chachoengsao REPower	Thailand
South Durban Community Environmental Alliance	South Africa
Trend Asia	Indonesia
WALHI	Indonesia
Urgewald	Germany
Senik Centre Asia	Indonesia
Andy Gheorghiu Consulting	Germany
Rhizoma	Indonesia
JA!Justica Ambiental	Mozambique
Africa Just Transition Network	Ghana
Oilfield Witness	United States
Mothers Rise Up	UK
Habitat Recovery Project	United States
Mossville Environmental Action Now MEAN	United States
Jubilee Australia Research Centre	Australia
FoE India	India
Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum	Pakistan
Friends of the Earth U.S.	U.S.

Turtle Island Restoration Network	USA
SAVE MY WORLD	Republic Democratic of the Congo
Earth Ethics, Inc.	United States
Indigenous Environmental Network	USA
Friends of the Earth Melbourne	Australia
Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth Malaysia)	Malaysia
Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)	EU
Otros Mundos Chiapas	México
Zero Hour	United States
MAUSAM Movement for Advancing Understanding of Sustainability And Mutuality	India
Project SEVANA South-East Asia	regional
Laos Dam Investment Monitor (LDIM)	Thailand
ETOs Watch Coalition	Thailand
Community Resource Centre	Thailand
KRuHA (People's Coalition for the Right to Water)	Indonesia
The Mekong Butterfly	Thailand
People of Asia for Climate Solutions	the Philippines
Asian Peoples" Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)	Regional
Asian Energy Network (AEN)	Regional
AEER (Action for Ecology and People Emancipation)	Indonesia
Minoritech	Japan
Corner House	United Kingdom
Pro Public	Nepal
Friends of the Earth England Wales and Northern Ireland	England Wales and Northern Ireland

Friends of the Earth Europe	Belgium
350 Bay Area Action	United States
Resource Renewal Institute	United States
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)	United States
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute	USA (global in scope)
St Andrews Presbyterian Earth Care Team	USA
Occupy Bergen County	United States of America
MoveOn.org HobokenRESIST!	USA
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community	USA
350 Hawaii	US
SEM spirit in education movement	Thailand
Friends of the Earth Australia	Australia
Taiwan Climate Action Network	Taiwan
Clean Energy Action	USA
Empower Our Future	USA
Dream Tan	USA
NTS Group	USA
Greenpeace Thailand	Thailand
Friends of the Earth Malta	Malta
350.org	US
350 Asia	Indonesia
South Asian Solidarity Collective	India
Between the Waters	United States
Hip Hop Caucus	USA

Climate Conversation Brazoria County	United States
Chesapeake Climate Action Network	United States
Climate Defenders	US
Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights	USA
Concerned Health Providers of Pennsylvania	United States
Better Path Coalition	US
198 methods	USA
Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action	USA
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community	USA
Oil Change International	International / US
GreenFaith	USA
Indivisible ADK/Saratoga	United States
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility	US
Cook Inletkeeper	USA
Progressive Democrats of America (PDA)	USA
Move Past Plastic (MPP)	United States
Project Outreach: Frac Sand Sentinel	United States
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.	USA
Ocean Conservation Research	USA
Third Act	USA
Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition	USA
Putnam Progressived	U.S.A.
Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic (SILA)	United States
Inclusive Louisiana	USA

Climate Reality Project Greater New Orleans Chapter	USA
Concerned Citizens of St. John	USA
Louisiana League of Conscious Voters	USA
350 New Orleans	USA
A Community Voice	USA
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition	United States of America
350 Silicon Valley	USA
Indivisible	United States
North Country Earth Action	US
1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations	USA
NEPA Green Coalition	USA
350 Seattle	United States
Stand.earth	US & Canada
Physicians for Social Responsibility- - New York	United States
Alaska Community Action on Toxics	USA
Finkinc	United States
Connecticut Citizen Action Group	US
Spirit of the Sun	United States
System Change Not Climate Change	Canada / Mexico / United States
Unite North Metro Denver	United States
Womxn from the Mountain	United States
Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate	United States
Wall of Women	United States
Working for Racial Equity	United States

Small Business Alliance	United States
Southwest Organization for Sustainability	United States
North Range Concerned Citizens	United States
RapidShift Network	United States
Our Sacred Earth	United States
Save the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	United States
Call to Action Colorado	United States
CatholicNetwork US	United States
Businesses for a Livable Climate	United States
Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action	United States
Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance	United States
Green House Connection Center	United States
Community for Sustainable Energy	United States
Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate	United States
Littleton Business Alliance	United States
Indivisible Ambassadors	United States
Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety, & Environment	United States
Interstate 70 Citizens Advisory Group	United States
Mind's Eye Productions	United States
Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association	United States
Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association	United States
Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries	United States
EarthRights International	International
Indus Consortium from Pakistan	Pakistan

Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center - Friends of the Earth Philippines	Philippines
Social Eco Education	US

Contact:

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