

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

His Excellency  
Algirdas Butkevicius  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania  
Vilnius

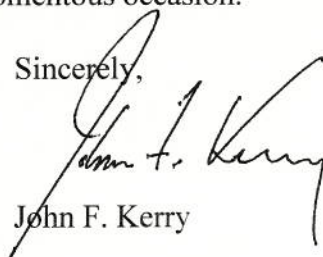
Dear Mister Prime Minister:

On behalf of the United States, I would like to congratulate the citizens of Lithuania as you celebrate the opening of the Klaipeda Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal and the inauguration of the "Independence."

Our longstanding friendship with Lithuania is grounded in our shared support for democracy, human rights, and free markets. The opening of the Klaipeda LNG terminal represents a historic milestone in the Baltic states' energy security. We commend Lithuania's strong and sustained leadership and strategic vision to bring this and other critical energy diversification projects to fruition. Continued regional coordination on energy policy and the realization of such critical projects are now more important than ever to ensure a secure energy future for Europe.

The United States looks forward to continuing our joint efforts with Lithuania, with other countries in the region, and with the European Union to further strengthen energy security in Europe. Again, congratulations on this momentous occasion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Kerry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".

John F. Kerry