Key Takeaways:
The Role of U.S. Natural Gas Exports in a Low-Carbon World

On January 19, 2023, the EFI Foundation convened a group of experts and stakeholders from the natural gas industry, the U.S. government, consulting firms, law firms, financial institutions, non-government organizations, think tanks, and foreign governments for the workshop, "The Role of U.S. Natural Gas Exports in a Low-Carbon World." Participants clearly articulated that U.S. natural gas exports play a central role in achieving global energy security and climate goals. On April 25, 2023, the EFI Foundation released a summary report of the workshop to highlight the role of natural gas for energy security and decarbonization, with a focus on Europe and Asia.

Nine key takeaways emerged from the workshop:

1 Climate goals and energy security—both affordability and availability of supply—need to be addressed in the same conversation.

2 Natural gas will continue to be crucial for fulfilling global goals for decarbonization, energy security, and food security.

3 The deployment of current technologies and additional regulations are needed for the natural gas industry to address its greenhouse gas emissions, including methane.

4 Federal, state, and local government permitting issues are a major challenge to meeting deep decarbonization and energy security goals.

5 The timelines for financing and building energy infrastructure may not be sufficient to meet global energy security and decarbonization needs.

6 Natural gas prices in the U.S. are affected by the dynamics of global energy markets as well as domestic politics and concerns.

7 The United States must decide what role to play in supplying natural gas and enabling global decarbonization goals.

8 Although Europe needs gas in the near term, it may not be a long-term market for U.S. exports.

9 In Asia, developing nations are primarily concerned about the affordability of natural gas, while developed nations worry more about the reliability of supply.