

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE



September 9, 2019

To: Members of the California Congressional Delegation (via fax)

From: Mrs. Susanne Stirling, Vice President, International Affairs

Re: REAUTHORIZATION FOR THE EX-IM BANK - SUPPORT

As you return to Washington, DC the California of Chamber of Commerce is writing in support of the continued authorization of the Export Import Bank set to expire on September 30.

In order to prevent the loss of U.S. jobs to our foreign competitors, I am writing on behalf of the California Chamber of Commerce to ask for your support in reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank. Failure to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank charter, which has only recently re-established a quorum after four years, will seriously disadvantage U.S. companies—small and large—in foreign markets, potentially resulting in the loss of thousands of U.S. jobs.

The California Chamber of Commerce, established in 1890, is the largest, broad-based business advocate that works at both state and federal levels to influence government actions affecting all California businesses. Our members include more than 16,000 firms of all kinds and sizes, as well as 300 affiliated local chambers of commerce and 200 trade associations. Our members employ one-fourth of the private sector workforce in California.

The CalChamber, in keeping with long-standing policy, enthusiastically supports free trade worldwide, expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad, and elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California business.

Ex-Im has a proven record of success, and turns a profit for the American taxpayer. In the past ten years, Ex-Im has refunded approximately \$5 billion to the U.S. Treasury above all costs and loss reserves.

In fact, small businesses accounted for 90.5% of Ex-Im's transactions in FY 2018; further, these small business transactions figures are in addition to the tens of thousands of small and medium-sized businesses that supply goods and services to large exporters.

California is one of the top economies in the world with a gross state product of over \$2.7 trillion. In 2018, California exported \$178.4 billion to approximately 230 foreign markets. Trade offers the opportunity to expand the role of California's exports.

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In 2018 alone, Ex-Im Bank assisted approximately 190 California exporters, helping to support almost \$1 billion in exports. Over the past 5 years, the Bank authorized \$3 billion in financing to support \$6 billion of California exports. Over this period, Ex-Im supported approximately 590 California exporters, 470 of which were small businesses, including 176 minority-owned and women-owned enterprises.

Failure to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank Board will put at risk tens of thousands of U.S. jobs. Over the last decade, the Ex-Im bank has supported more than 1.8 million jobs in all 50 states; however, in FY 2018, lacking a board quorum for several consecutive years, the number of jobs supported dwindled to 33,000 from 40,000 in FY 2017. These American workers, and the almost 2,200 small businesses they worked for in FY 2018, depend on Ex-Im to compete in global markets.

The California Chamber of Commerce strongly urges you to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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