



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

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February 23, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. Capitol H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Capitol S-230
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
US Capitol H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Capitol S-221
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Pelosi & Minority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), we urge you to reauthorize a long-term extension of the United States Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank. It is essential that swift action takes place before the bank's current authorization lapses on June 30, 2015, or before the bank's lending authority is exhausted.

Ex-Im is a vital tool in providing financing assistance to American businesses to help them succeed and prosper in the global market. This assistance is especially important in light of foreign business competitors that benefit from significant financial support from their own governments. Without the assurance of continued funding for the Ex-Im bank, U.S. businesses will be disadvantaged compared to their foreign competitors.

U.S. exporters have continually enjoyed strong partnerships between federal and state governments, particularly as they collaborate to foster opportunities for small and medium-sized American businesses to reach international markets. In particular, Ex-Im's City/State Partners Program has been a useful resource for states governments and state economic development agencies in identifying local businesses, markets, and trading partners for U.S. goods and businesses abroad. Currently, City/State partners with numerous economic development associations throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico. However, the usefulness of successful programs such as City/State would be threatened if Ex-Im's authorization or lending authority lapses.

American businesses cannot afford any uncertainty that a lapse in authorization or exhaustion of lending authority would be sure to bring. Either result would amount to an unstable situation for

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current Ex-Im partners, prospective U.S. exporters, and creditors both in the U.S. and abroad. Growth in U.S. exports has helped contribute to positive job growth and economic recovery, but such gains may be easily mitigated or reversed without Congressional action. It is important that leadership in both the House and the Senate work together to develop a multi-year reauthorization, along with transparency mechanisms to ensure fiduciary soundness and protections for American businesses and workers. Short term stopgap measures would erode exporting confidence for American businesses, international markets and creditors.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance, you can contact NCSL staff Jon Jukuri (Jon.Jukuri@ncsl.org) and Ben Schaefer (Ben.Shaefer@ncsl.org) or call NCSL's D.C. office at (202) 624-5400.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Anna MacKinnon
Alaska Senate
Co-Chair, NCSL Labor & Economic Development Committee



The Honorable Maggie Carlton
Nevada State Assembly
Co-Chair, NCSL Labor & Economic Development Committee

Attached: NCSL Trade Policy Directive: “**Export Promotion, Export Finance and Trade Agreements**”

Cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Members of the House Committee on Financial Services