April 14, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
House of Representatives
H-232, Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
H-204, Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader McConnell, Leader Pelosi and Leader Reid:

As governors of states whose economies and workforces depend on exports, we strongly urge you to support legislation that provides for the long-term reauthorization of the U.S. Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank) before its charter expires on June 30, 2015. The Ex-Im Bank is a crucial tool that both small and large businesses use to compete fairly in the world market, increase their exports, stimulate job creation, and contribute to the growth of our states’ economies.

As the official export credit agency of the United States, the Ex-Im Bank assumes the credit and country risks that private sector lenders are unable or unwilling to accept, and without it, U.S. firms would lose many sales to overseas competitors. The Ex-Im Bank allows our companies and workers to compete on a level playing field against international competitors who receive extensive support from their own export credit agencies.

As the economies of our states continue to grow, the Ex-Im Bank is currently playing a vital role in promoting exports and jobs. In federal fiscal year 2014, the Ex-Im Bank supplied more than $20 billion in financing to support approximately $27 billion in exports. In that same fiscal year, the Ex-Im Bank supported more than 160,000 American jobs. And the overwhelming majority of the Ex-Im Bank’s transactions – nearly 90 percent – assisted small businesses.\(^1\)


In a tight federal fiscal environment, we are encouraged that the Ex-Im Bank is financially self-sustaining, and operates at no cost to hard-working American taxpayers. In fact, in fiscal year 2014 alone, the Ex-Im Bank returned approximately $675 million in deficit-reducing receipts to the U.S. Treasury.  

Last year, an overwhelming majority of the nation's governors urged Congress to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank. While we appreciate that Congress extended the Bank's charter until June 30, 2015, it is essential that both chambers act again, this time to pass a long-term, multi-year reauthorization, before that deadline. We also welcome opportunities to continue to reform and improve the Ex-Im Bank moving forward. Failure to act will place American industries at a significant disadvantage in the global marketplace and harm businesses in our states.

We strongly encourage you to pass a long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. Thank you for your consideration and your leadership as we work together to increase job opportunities in our states and grow our national economy.

Sincerely,

Robert Bentley  
Governor Robert Bentley  
State of Alabama

Jay Inslee  
Governor Jay Inslee  
State of Washington

Bill Walker  
Governor Bill Walker  
State of Alaska

Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
State of California

John Hickenlooper  
Governor John Hickenlooper  
State of Colorado

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor Dannel P. Malloy  
State of Connecticut

Jack Markell  
Governor Jack Markell  
State of Delaware

Eddie Baza Calvo  
Governor Eddie Baza Calvo  
Island of Guam

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2 Ibid.
Governor David Ige  
State of Hawaii

Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter  
State of Idaho

Governor Steven L. Beshar  
Commonwealth of Kentucky

Governor Paul LePage  
State of Maine

Governor Charles D. Baker  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor Mark Dayton  
State of Minnesota

Governor Steve Bullock  
State of Montana

Governor Brian Sandoval  
State of Nevada

Governor Maggie Hassan  
State of New Hampshire

Governor Susana Martinez  
State of New Mexico

Governor Mary Fallin  
State of Oklahoma

Governor Kate Brown  
State of Oregon

Governor Tom Wolf  
State of Pennsylvania

Governor Alejandro Javier García Padilla  
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Governor Gina Raimondo  
State of Rhode Island

Governor Nikki R. Haley  
State of South Carolina