



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

July 18, 2014

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

As Governor of Florida, the state with the second highest number of exporters in the country, I encourage you to reauthorize the U.S. Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank) before its charter expires later this year. I understand some are concerned about the bank, but if there are ways to improve the program by making it more transparent, I would encourage you to do so as part of the reauthorization.

In its role as the official U.S. export credit agency, Ex-Im Bank is a vital export finance tool at no cost to American taxpayers. The bank allows U.S. companies and workers to compete on a level playing field against our foreign competitors that receive extensive support from their own respective export credit agencies. Every major economy in the world utilizes such an institution. Failure to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank would mean companies from other countries would likely get business that would otherwise have gone to American firms. At a time when the U.S. economy continues to face challenges, it is especially important to maintain the role Ex-Im Bank plays in supporting U.S. jobs in businesses of all sizes and in all industry sectors.

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Since 2007, the Ex-Im Bank has helped more than 700 Florida companies finance more than \$7 billion in exports in areas such as energy, technology, and heavy manufacturing. Almost 80 percent of these companies were small businesses, and almost 200 of them were women or minority owned enterprises.

The Ex-Im Bank's services are essential in helping small and medium sized Florida businesses thrive. Some examples of such businesses include Dade Equipment, Inc. in Medley for Manufacturing Machinery and Sales, Espirito Santo Bank in Miami for Banking and Finance, and Blue Ribbon Meats, Inc. in Hialeah for Food Manufacturing and Sales. Large businesses in Florida supported by the Ex-Im Bank include Siemens Energy, Inc. in Orlando, Pacific Ltd. Corp. in Miami, and Gulf South Forest Products, Inc. in Fort Lauderdale. The reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank is key to the continued exporting success of companies like these - - without the competitive advantage the bank provides, both export sales and jobs could be lost here in Florida.

The Ex-Im Bank's authorization will expire at the end of September. The Ex-Im Bank reauthorization will allow Florida companies to continue to expand their international trade activities, leading to more business growth and job creation. I strongly encourage you to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank and continue supporting Florida and U.S. exports, market expansion, and jobs. It is the right thing to do for our economy, our companies, and our workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", is written over a faint, larger blue signature that is partially obscured.

Rick Scott
Governor