



September 9, 2019

**Robin Vos**  
Assembly Speaker  
Wisconsin  
President, NCSL

**Martha R. Wigton**  
Director  
House Budget & Research  
Office  
Georgia  
Staff Chair, NCSL

**Tim Storey**  
Executive Director

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. Capitol H-232  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Minority Leader  
US Capitol H-204  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
U.S. Capitol S-221  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader McCarthy and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), we urge you to provide 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 September 30, 2019, or before the bank's lending authority is exhausted. It is with this urgency that we encourage passage of H.R. 3407, the United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019, a bipartisan measure introduced by Representative Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) and Representative Patrick T. McHenry (R-N.C.).

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 considering 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 state governments and state economic development agencies in identifying local businesses, markets, and trading partners for U.S. goods and businesses abroad. Currently, Ex-Im's City-State Program 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 current Ex-Im's 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) or call NCSL's D.C. office at (202) 624-5400.

Sincerely,



**Delegate Terry G. Kilgore**  
Virginia House of Delegates  
Co-Chair, NCSL Labor & Economic Development Committee



**Assemblywoman 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