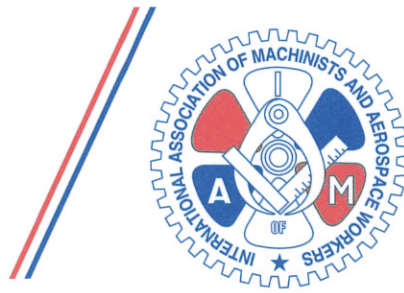


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

September 12, 2019

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), the largest aerospace manufacturing union in North America, I strongly urge you to support and vote "Yes" to pass the Export Import Reauthorization Act of 2019, S. 2293.

This bipartisan legislation would help create and sustain U.S. jobs in manufacturing and other strategic industries and help improve the balance of trade between the U.S. and high export nations by reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank for the next ten years.

The Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank) is one of the few U.S. trade policies that actually supports U.S. exports and jobs by providing vital loan guarantees for the sale of U.S. goods and services to international markets. The bank's mission is "to assist in financing the export of U.S. goods and services", enabling "large and small companies to turn export opportunities into real sales that help to maintain and create U.S. jobs and contribute to a stronger national economy." With the bank's authorizing charter set to expire in September 2019, it is imperative that Congress work expeditiously to pass Ex-IM Bank reauthorization legislation before the end of the Fiscal Year.

American jobs depend upon a fully functioning Ex-Im Bank with a fully staffed board of directors to provide vital financing for the export of U.S. made products. Under the Bank's current charter, projects which require more than \$10 million in financing must be approved by the Ex-IM Bank board of directors. However, the lack of a quorum on the board in recent years has crippled the Ex-Im Bank's ability to support U.S. manufacturers and workers, particularly in the aerospace industry, one of the last sectors in which the U.S. enjoys a positive balance of trade with the rest of the world. According to the bank's most recent annual report, the Ex-Im Bank authorized only \$3.3 billion in export credit in FY 2018. This is down from \$20 billion in authorized export credit in FY 2014, which was the last year the bank was fully operational with a fully staffed board. Consequently, the bank estimates that it supported a mere 33,000 U.S. jobs in FY 2018, a fraction of the 164,000 American jobs that the bank supported in FY 2014 when it operated with a full quorum. Meanwhile, job producing export projects are being taken by foreign competitors. Our international competitors continue to support their companies through comprehensive industrial policies in addition to robust export financing agencies. China alone has three export credit agencies that dwarf what our Ex-Im Bank provides.

The proposed legislation not only reauthorizes the Ex-IM bank over the next ten years, but it includes important provisions to reform the bank's quorum rules which have severely limited the bank's effectiveness in recent years. The bill provides for a process to seat a temporary board (including the U.S. Trade Representative, the Commerce Secretary, and the Treasury Secretary) if a quorum cannot be reached over a 90 day period. In addition to these needed reforms to the quorum rules, this legislation would gradually increase the Ex-Im Bank's lending authority from

\$135 billion to \$175 billion, allowing the bank to expand its portfolio of projects, increase U.S. exports, create additional U.S. jobs, and drive economic growth.

For all of these reasons, **I urge you to support this vitally important, bipartisan legislation and vote “Yes” on S. 2293, The Export Import Reauthorization Act of 2019.**

For more information, please contact IAM Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301)967-4575 or hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Martinez, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President