April 14, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the 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.²

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

Ed R. Brown
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

² Ibid.
Governor Dennis Daugaard  
State of South Dakota

Governor Peter Shumlin  
State of Vermont

Governor Terence R. McAulliffe  
Commonwealth of Virginia

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin  
State of West Virginia