



Real bipartisanship is a rare thing in Congress today. When a majority of Members on both sides of the aisle sign their names to something, you know it must be important. That is exactly what is happening with the reauthorization of the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank. I am hopeful that we will see it approved as soon as possible.

My company, Special Products & Mfg., Inc. in Rockwall, Texas, has had long-standing plans to expand our business and add jobs. Thanks to uncertainty in Congress, we've had to halt our growth.

Much of our work comes from contracts with large companies that secure deals in part thanks to Ex-Im's support. Business was going so well for us that we decided to move forward with a 50,000 square foot expansion at the end of 2014—it would have expanded our manufacturing facility by over 30%. Even when oil prices dropped earlier this year, we continued to move forward in planning our expansion (design, bidding and city approvals). Unfortunately we were not able to break ground due to the indecisiveness regarding Ex-Im Reauthorization.

We were looking forward to expanding our business and introducing additional, well-paying jobs into the Texas economy. Our growth is now hampered by the economy but politics. Without Congressional reauthorization of Ex-Im or a long-term highway bill, our company has been forced to put our expansion plans on hold.

Since 2007, Ex-Im has supported over 150,000 Texas jobs. In today's economy, we cannot afford to hamper job creation. Congress is doing just that by creating uncertainty for our business's future demand. Congress has effectively limited our ability to offer new job opportunities to hardworking Texans.

My company is not alone; our state is the leading beneficiary of Ex-Im's support in terms of number of businesses assisted. More than 1,500 businesses across Texas directly rely on support from the Ex-Im Bank. That number does not account for the businesses like mine, which are contracted to produce components of exported products. Perhaps the most astounding number of all is that Ex-Im has supported nearly \$24 billion of Texas exports since 2007.

Some Texas politicians celebrate the lapse of Ex-Im, stating they have eliminated an unnecessary government organization. But in reality, they took away our ability to compete, just to win an ideological battle. The only real winners here are U.S. competitors like China and Europe, who will continue to provide support for growing their exports.



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When Texas competes on the world stage, we win. Ex-Im provided the level playing field we need to compete against foreign competitors. Hopefully, Congress will prioritize smart policy over politics in the end, and reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank for many years to come.

After months of inaction, Congress seems to have finally woken up to the fact that real jobs are on the line. Last week, 218 Representatives signed a discharge petition to force a fair vote on the floor of the House of Representatives. No more stalling or partisan posturing. Job creators deserve a fair vote, and a majority of Congress is demanding one. Uncertainty is simply not how you grow an economy.

Congress should be doing everything in its power to help small businesses like mine grow and increase job opportunities. Instead, the Ex-Im lapse along with no long term highway bill has forced us to put our plans for growth on hold and wait for Congress to act.

I call on Congress to renew the Ex-Im Bank immediately. Businesses like mine across the U.S. cannot wait any longer. This is not just politics as usual, U.S. exports, jobs, and economic growth are on the line.

Sincerely,

Ed Grand-Lienard  
President