



October 24, 2017

The Honorable David Perdue
United States Senate
383 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Nomination of Scott Garrett to Head Ex-Im Bank

Dear Senator Perdue:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Georgia Association of Manufacturers (“GAM”). Manufacturers in Georgia are grateful to have Senators in our state and an ally in the White House who seek to ensure that America and its workers are not left behind as foreign governments do all they can to win in the global economy. GAM strongly supports a robust U.S. Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank to provide manufacturers in Georgia a fair opportunity to win sales overseas in the face of very active foreign government export financing activity.

To ensure that Ex-Im Bank is providing American firms and workers a fair shake, GAM strongly supports the confirmation of Spencer Bachus, Kimberly Reed, Claudia Slacik and Judith Pryor to the Ex-Im Bank Board of Directors. However, at the same time, GAM is respectfully but firmly opposed to the nomination of Scott Garrett to lead the Ex-Im Bank given his longstanding hostility to its mission and his past actions to try to eliminate the agency.

As you know, the Ex-Im Bank plays an important role in promoting exports to create more American jobs. More specifically, according to the Ex-Im Coalition, the Ex-Im Bank supports \$4.67 billion in export sales from Georgia, 205 Georgia companies, and nearly 30,000 Georgia jobs (see <http://exportersforexim.org/states/georgia/>). That is why the agency needs at its helm a leader who will ensure the agency is able to function at its full potential and promote U.S. exports in the face of substantial competition from manufacturers overseas supported by very active foreign export credit agencies. To compete in the global economy, manufacturers need a strong Ex-Im Bank that can respond to the demands of our global customers and put U.S. exporters on a level playing field.

Mr. Garrett has a long record of opposing the fundamental mission of the Ex-Im Bank to support U.S. jobs through exports. Georgia manufacturers are rightfully concerned that he will not empower the agency to achieve its full capability but will instead hobble it. Beyond his votes against a multi-year reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank in both 2012 and 2015, his opposition appears based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the agency and a disregard of the extremely tilted international landscape that manufacturers in the United States face.

Manufacturers in Georgia and across America are missing out on major new business opportunities overseas every day that the Ex-Im Bank faces vacancies on its Board of Directors, to the detriment of local economies and American jobs. That is why we call on your committee to move forward the nominations of Mr. Bachus, Ms. Reed, Ms. Slacik and Ms. Pryor to the Ex-Im Bank Board of Directors. By contrast, Mr. Garrett is not the right choice to lead the Ex-Im Bank and his confirmation would weaken U.S. exporter and endanger American manufacturing jobs.

Thank you for considering our concerns and most especially for your service to our state and all that you do to support Georgia manufacturers.

Sincerely,



G. L. Bowen, III
President

cc: Sen. Mike Crapo, Senate Banking Committee, Chairman
Sen. Sherrod Brown, Senate Banking Committee, Ranking Member
GAM Executive Committee