

February 3, 2015

The Honorable Stephen Fincher
U.S. House of Representatives
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Fincher:

On behalf of the Small Business Exporters Association (SBEA)—the largest and oldest nonprofit association in the country dedicated exclusively to small- and mid-size exporters, and our umbrella advocacy organization the National Small Business Association (NSBA), I am pleased to support the *Reform Exports and Expand the American Economy Act (H.R. 597)*, which would provide a long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. (Ex-Im Bank). The importance of promoting and facilitating small-business exports has long been recognized by the membership of NSBA and SBEA as a priority issue. Even in sound economic times, small businesses are at a distinct disadvantage in the global economy. SBEA and NSBA have been urging for decades that more must be done to emphasize the needs of small business within the scope of U.S. trade.

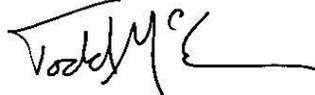
Ex-Im Bank helps create and maintain U.S. jobs by filling gaps in private export financing at no cost to American taxpayers—providing a variety of financial guarantees to help U.S. businesses compete in the global marketplace. In fiscal year (FY) 2014, Ex-Im approved \$20.5 billion in total authorizations, supporting an estimated \$27.5 billion in export sales and approximately 164,000 American jobs. Its strong support for small businesses accounts for nearly 90 percent of the Bank's customers. Unfortunately, Congress failed to enact a long-term reauthorization by Sept. 30, 2014, when the Bank's charter was set to expire and has since been granted a short-term, nine month extension.

By extending the Bank's authority through Sept. 30, 2019, H.R. 597 will give certainty to businesses that use it, provide essential resources to keep American exporters competitive and maintain sustainable economic growth. H.R. 597 would also impose 31 reforms on the Bank including requirements to: report annually to Congress on its programs to support small and medium-sized businesses; have an independent audit of the Bank's activities; create a more clearly defined role for the chief risk officer; and other reforms that aim to strengthen the Bank's transparency and accountability while fostering job-growth.

Failure to reauthorize Ex-Im before the June 30 deadline would hurt U.S. manufacturers—small and large—threatening the export sales of thousands of U.S. companies and the security of hundreds of thousands of American jobs that depend directly or indirectly on Ex-Im Bank's export financing.

SBEA and NSBA have been long-time supporters of Ex-Im Bank, and believe it should remain a catalyst for the expansion of small-business exports while continuing to support businesses confronting aggressive foreign competition. Thank you for your continued leadership on this critical issue and I look forward to working with you to ensure a thriving Ex-Im that continues to support small exporters.

Sincerely,



Todd McCracken
President & CEO