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March 19, 2012

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Reid, Leader Pelosi and Leader McConnell:

As governors of states and territories across the nation whose economies, communities and families benefit from exports, we urge you to pass a four-year reauthorization of the U.S. Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im) and raise the limit on Ex-Im's loan portfolio to no less than \$135 billion. As the official export credit agency of the United States, Ex-Im is a critical tool for U.S. exporters in our states and a money-maker for American taxpayers.

At a time of high unemployment, Ex-Im is an important source of job creation and sustainment. Last year alone, Ex-Im supported \$34 billion in exports which in turn supported the creation or sustainment of an estimated 230,000 jobs at more than 3,300 companies across the country. In addition, approximately 80 percent of the Ex-Im's transactions are in support of small U.S. businesses. Ex-Im works for American companies and taxpayers – it is good business and good government.


Ex-Im also is financially self-sustaining. In the five years since Congress last reauthorized Ex-Im, it has returned more than \$3 billion to the U.S. Treasury above and beyond the cost of its operations.

Ex-Im is critical to the ability of exporters in our states to compete on a level international playing field where competitors receive aggressive support from their own countries' export credit agencies. At a time of significant economic challenge here at home, support for Ex-Im means support for U.S. exports and U.S. jobs.

Ex-Im's temporary reauthorization will expire on May 31, and failure to reauthorize its operations at an internationally competitive level will seriously disadvantage U.S. companies — small and large — potentially resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs in our states.


We strongly urge you to approve legislation before June 1, 2012 to reauthorize Ex-Im with a higher lending cap to support surging U.S. exports and American jobs. It is the right thing to do for our states, our economy and our nation.

Sincerely,

  
Governor Chris Gregoire  
Washington


  
Governor Robert Bentley  
Alabama

  
Governor Bev Perdue  
North Carolina

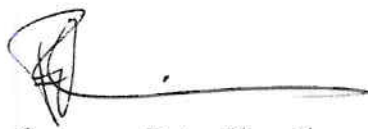
  
Governor Pat Quinn  
Illinois

  
Governor Mike Beebe  
Arkansas


  
Governor Steven L. Beshear  
Kentucky


  
Governor Dannel P. Malloy  
Connecticut


  
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Governor Brian Sandoval  
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Governor Deval Patrick  
Massachusetts

  
Governor Dennis Daugaard  
South Dakota




Governor John A. Kitzhaber  
Oregon



Governor Mark Dayton  
Minnesota



Governor Terry E. Branstad  
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Governor Edmond G. Brown, Jr.  
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Governor John deJongh, Jr.  
Virgin Islands



Governor Mary Fallin  
Oklahoma



Governor Luis G. Fortuño  
Puerto Rico



Governor Neil Abercrombie  
Hawaii



Governor Martin O'Malley  
Maryland



Governor Jan Brewer  
Arizona