

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

Opening Statement Rep. Matt Cartwright, Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules Joint Hearing on "Oversight Efforts to Reform the Export-Import Bank"

April 15, 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome to our witnesses. I look forward to your testimony.

Today's hearing is intended to examine the Bank's effort to implement congressionally mandated reforms as well as the implementation of recommendations provided by GAO and the Bank's Inspector General.

The Export-Import Bank's transactions support billions of dollars in exports and hundreds of thousands of American jobs by supporting U.S. companies that export to foreign markets. The Bank has been a stellar steward of taxpayer funds, maintaining a portfolio with a default rate of just 0.175%. And the Bank generates a surplus to the U.S. treasury that results in deficit reduction.

Since 2012, the Bank has implemented all of the requirements in the 2012 reauthorization, addressed 15 of the 16 GAO recommendations, and concurred with 140 of 142 IG recommendations. The Bank continues to work with GAO on the one remaining recommendation and the IG on the two unresolved recommendations.

The Ex-Im Bank plays a role in leveling the playing field for American businesses competing in a global marketplace. There are 60 other foreign export credit agencies that seek to ensure their home-country businesses are winning export sales. The Ex-Im Bank makes available financing to U.S. businesses to compete with foreign manufacturers on the merits of their goods and services, and not government-backed cut-rate financing.

In FY 2014, 89% of Bank transactions benefited small business exporters of U.S.-made goods and services. These are deals that could not--and would not--be done by the private sector alone, and are the perfect example of the kinds of public private partnerships we need to continue to do in order to grow our economy. In my own district, the Bank supports over \$63 million in exports benefitting eight companies, and over 400 jobs.

For most of its 80 years, the Ex-Im Bank has received support from both Republicans and Democrats. In fact, Congress has consistently reauthorized the Bank -- 16 times without fail. The Bank's reauthorization is supported by a diverse coalition, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Waste & Recycling Association, and Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., which has two large plants in my district.

This year however, a group I've referred to in the past as the "shutdown crowd" has decided to hold the Bank's reauthorization hostage. Playing such a dangerous game is bad for American businesses, American exports, and most importantly, American jobs.

Honest Congressional oversight is an extremely effective tool for achieving government reforms. Today's hearing provides an opportunity to effectively examine the Bank's efforts to strengthen policies and procedures, while holding the Bank accountable for implementation of reforms, and assuring the American public that the Bank continues to contribute to our economy.

I hope today's hearing will highlight the good work of the Bank, resolve any outstanding questions concerning the 2012 reforms, and provide additional support for the Bank's continuing reauthorization.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and I yield back.

Contact: Jennifer Hoffman, Communications Director, (202) 226-5181.