



GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

June 24, 2014

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Ranking Member, House Committee on Financial Services
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Waters,

The Houston region continues to enjoy strong economic growth driven in large part by our export economy. In order to keep momentum, it is critical that Congress supports tools encouraging businesses to expand into new markets and create new jobs. The Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank of the United States is one of these tools, and we ask you to support its reauthorization.

This letter represents strong support for the reauthorization of Ex-Im Bank by 14 chambers of commerce in the Houston region representing 10,951 companies and over 730,000 employees. As the voice of the business community across our region, we are directly connected to both small businesses and major corporations that use Ex-Im Bank to gain access to foreign markets and create jobs.

Ex-Im Bank plays a vital role in keeping our region globally competitive, and it is responsible for contributing \$4 billion to total export sales in Texas in 2013. The value of foreign trade passing through the Houston region doubled over the last decade, and Houston now ranks as the 4th busiest export district in the U.S. for international trade. More than 76 percent of all Ex-Im Bank support in Texas for 2013 directly benefited the Houston region.

Small and medium-sized businesses in our region also benefit directly from Ex-Im. Small businesses account for nearly 85 percent of Ex-Im Bank's transactions; further, these transaction figures do not include the tens of thousands of small and medium-sized businesses that supply goods and services to large exporters using the Bank.

We trust you will carefully consider the impact Ex-Im Bank has on our region and our position as a global economic leader. As the collective voice of the business community in the region, we look forward to your support of the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Sincerely,

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership
Baytown Chamber of Commerce
Brenham/Washington County Chamber of
Commerce
Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce
Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce
Greater Houston Partnership
Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce
Houston East End Chamber of Commerce

Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce
Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce
League City Chamber of Commerce
Pearland Chamber of Commerce
West Chambers County Chamber of Commerce
Wharton Chamber of Commerce