United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 30, 2016

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby,

We write to urge you to move forward with the business of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and provide a vote on the nomination of J. Mark McWatters to serve on the Board of Directors of the Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of the United States. As you are well aware, Mr. McWatters is a well-qualified, Republican nominee and he deserves to have his nomination considered by the Committee for an up or down vote.

The failure to move Mr. McWatters' nomination is beginning to have serious negative consequences for American workers across the country. Due to the Board's current lack of a quorum, medium and long-term transactions valued in excess of $10 million cannot be approved. EXIM has more than 30 board-level transactions pending in the pipeline, valued at more than $20 billion, supporting tens of thousands of high paying manufacturing and servicing jobs. These potential exports are in a variety of industries, including solar, satellites, oil and gas, and transportation, among others. These transactions have nationwide supply chain impacts, and would most significantly impact jobs in a number of states including: Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. Some of these jobs have already been lost and many more are at risk of being moved to countries where export financing is more readily available.

Since 2009, EXIM's Board of Directors has approved and disbursed financing for 478 transactions that has directly supported exports from more than 2,000 different companies, including more than 800 small businesses. Should the Committee fail to move forward with the nomination process, it will have a material, negative impact on jobs at small and large companies alike – as well as up and down the manufacturing supply chain – jeopardizing the livelihood of thousands of hard working men and women across the United States.

As you know, nearly one year ago Congress failed to reauthorize EXIM for the first time in its history. At that time, we warned it would be disruptive to American jobs, and we were right. As a result of the temporary lapse in authorization we saw jobs move to Canada and other countries that have competing export credit agencies. Thankfully, the worst of that crisis was averted when Congress overwhelming expressed its bipartisan support for EXIM in December by reauthorizing it with important reforms. Unfortunately, EXIM has been inhibited from carrying out its mission and many of the important reforms we passed. There is no doubt that the will of

both the Senate and the House is to allow EXIM to do its job and continue to provide critical export credit financing that facilitates U.S. exports and supports American workers.

We respectfully request that you reconsider your position and permit the Committee to conduct its business and advance this critical nomination to restore the operating Board quorum at the EXIM Bank. American workers who face potential job losses and a disruption to their economic security deserve as much.

Sincerely,

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Mark Warner
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Chris Coons
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Joseph Manchin III
United States Senator

Al Franken
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Michael Bennet
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Charles Schumer
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Bob Casey
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Cory Booker
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Tom Udall
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Chris Murphy
United States Senator

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Tom Carper
United States Senator

Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator