



August 17, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to thank you for your past opposition to the Export-Import Bank and to urge you to oppose recent efforts to change Export-Import Bank requirements for approving high-dollar financing deals.

As you know, the Ex-Im Bank currently has just two of the three board members necessary to authorize financing deals worth more than \$10 million. An amendment recently adopted by the House Appropriations Committee, however, seeks to change the law to allow the bank to approve financing deals exceeding \$10 million without a quorum.

The amendment is a blatant attempt to expand taxpayer-funded corporate welfare. If enacted into law, it would overwhelmingly benefit some of the largest and most politically connected companies in the world at the expense of America's small businesses, which have historically received a smaller share of Ex-Im Bank financing. In fiscal year 2015, for example, only 11 percent of financing for deals worth more than \$10 million directly benefited small businesses.

Everything about the amendment—subsidies to big corporations; the way it was bundled into a larger, unrelated bill in violation of House Rule XXI; and the special interests lobbying behind the scenes—is exactly why Americans are frustrated and angry with Washington.

Sen. Richard Shelby, chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, has taken a principled stand against advancing a nominee to the bank's board of directors. We urge you to stand with Sen. Shelby by opposing any effort to change Ex-Im Bank quorum requirements through the regular appropriations process or as part of a fiscal year 2017 omnibus spending bill. Doing so will help ensure that the economy remains a level playing field on which small businesses can compete.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Holden".

Mark Holden
Chairman
Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce