

Jay Timmons
President and CEO

March 7, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

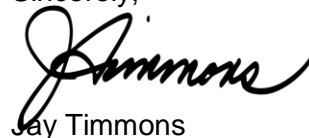
Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

The National Association of Manufacturers, the largest manufacturing association in the United States and the voice of more than 12 million manufacturing workers across America, urges swift action to put American manufacturing workers on a more level playing field in the global economy. For too long, manufacturers in the United States have been competing at a significant disadvantage compared to international competitors in China, Europe, South America and beyond because of the U.S. Export-Import Bank that has been effectively shuttered since mid-2015. The Senate can correct this imbalance immediately by scheduling votes for the Ex-Im Board of Directors nominees that were reported favorably with broad, bipartisan support just last week by the Senate Banking Committee. Approving this slate of well-qualified nominees will finally provide the Ex-Im Board of Directors with the quorum the bank so badly needs to function. After nearly four years of inaction, it is well past time for the Senate to schedule action so that manufacturers and American workers will not continue to be left behind.

On February 26, the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee voted on a strongly bipartisan basis to support the White House's nominees for the Ex-Im Bank Board. Despite this positive step, until the full Senate acts the Ex-Im Board will continue to lack any Senate-approved board members and, therefore, will still not be able to consider any major U.S. sales over \$10 million (much less implement the reforms still outstanding from the 2015 Ex-Im Bank reauthorization). The NAM estimates that, since Ex-Im Bank lost the ability to operate fully nearly four years ago, manufacturers have lost at least \$119 billion in manufacturing output, translating into 80,000 fewer manufacturing jobs in 2016 and 2017. These losses undermine our manufacturing base and offshore our jobs—and, moreover, these losses will continue to grow each day that the Ex-Im Bank remains hobbled.

Getting the Ex-Im Bank back up and running by confirming these highly qualified nominees to the Bank's Board should be a top priority of the Senate. Doing so will demonstrate your commitment to the countless Americans who rely on the Bank. We urge the Senate to confirm nominees to the Ex-Im Bank's Board and giving American exporters a key tool to grow jobs and prosperity in the United States.

Sincerely,



Jay Timmons

cc: The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee