



The Honorable Roy Blunt
United State Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20510

May 9, 2019

Dear Senator Roy Blunt,

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and the World Trade Center-Kansas City, the Regional Export Promotion Program (REPP) representative for the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank, recognize the urgent need for restoring a quorum to the Export-Import Bank Board to ensure the competitiveness of United States exporters. We thank you for voting yes on the nominations of Kimberly Reed to serve as President of the Ex-Im Bank and Spencer Bachus III and Judith DelZoppo Pryor to serve on the board of the Bank.

For almost four years, the Ex-Im Bank has been without a full board and, thus, unable to approve transactions over \$10 million, hindering opportunities for U.S. businesses and their workers and hampering the competitiveness of our businesses in foreign markets. The Kansas City business community recognizes the Ex-Im Bank offers financing and guarantees for U.S. exports with no cost to taxpayers and serves a vital role for U.S. exporters.

In Missouri, Ex-Im Bank has authorized financing or insurance to 75 total exporters over the past five years. The majority of those exporters are small businesses and the authorized financing or insurances adds up to a total export value of \$808 million. The businesses who work with Ex-Im Bank are spread out across the state and cover a wide array of industries including machinery, primary metal and food manufacturing and sales.

These exporters who have gained insurance or financing with the Ex-Im Bank are large employers in Missouri and significant contributors to our region's and state's overall GDP. Restoring a quorum to the Ex-Im Bank, allowing the Bank to operate at full capacity, will provide significant assistance to our area exporters—including large exporters, smaller businesses that are part of their supply chains and the thousands of Missouri workers whose jobs depend on exports.

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and World Trade Center-Kansas City represent and serve a dynamic business community in Missouri and understand the need to restore a quorum to the Export-Import Bank. We thank you for taking the important step to ensure Kansas City businesses and the State of Missouri will benefit through increased export competitiveness.

With gratitude,

Cathy Bennett
Sr. Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations
The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
bennett@kcchamber.com
816.374.5412

Kaitlin Bast
Manager
World Trade Center-Kansas City
bast@kcchamber.com
816.374.5465