

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

March 30, 2012

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your letter regarding reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. The Export-Import Bank is an essential tool for providing American companies with a level playing field in a global economy, creating jobs, and revitalizing America's manufacturing sector. I am surprised by your claim of support for the Bank, given that just last week you led a coordinated and successful effort to defeat its reauthorization.

I was also surprised to learn that you believe Senate action on the reauthorization would be brief. If you had not opposed reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank, led a Republican filibuster and insisted on a 60-vote threshold, it would have already passed the Senate with bipartisan support on a vote of 55-44 on Senate amendment 1836. Moreover, as you undoubtedly know, Republicans have been responsible for an unprecedented number of filibusters, causing delay and postponement to become common place in the Senate.

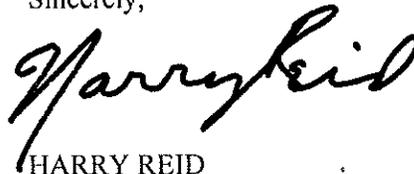
The Bank's reauthorization did not need to be a fight. The provisions in the reauthorization had been approved by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Banking Committee, and the amendment was cosponsored by Senators Shelby and Graham. Although it defies belief, even the Republican cosponsors of the reauthorization voted against it.

Unfortunately, it has come to my attention that Members of the House who are ideologically opposed to the Export-Import Bank's very existence intend to oppose its reauthorization and severely curtail its operations, making the prospect of a stand-alone reauthorization of the Bank passing the House remote. The Bank creates jobs, provides capital to small businesses, and enjoys bipartisan support, and it was an ideal fit for the bipartisan JOBS Act, which was designed to provide small businesses with greater access to capital. Attaching the Bank's reauthorization to the JOBS Act, which had strong bipartisan support in the House, would have provided a vehicle for reauthorization that would have garnered the support necessary to overcome House Republicans' opposition.

Even if Senate Republicans are in fact ready to reverse their position and support the Bank, as your letter suggests, I foresee no possibility of the reauthorization receiving the necessary support from your colleagues in the House. I look forward to working with you to find another vehicle that would ensure passage of the Export-Import Bank through the House.

It is obvious that you regret your vote, and I sincerely wish that when the opportunity presented itself, you had voted according to the dictates of your conscience.

Sincerely,



HARRY REID
Majority Leader
United States Senate-Nevada

CC: The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
The Honorable Daniel Coats
The Honorable Mike Johanns
The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
The Honorable Rob Portman
The Honorable Jeff Sessions
The Honorable John Boozman
The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable John Hoeven
The Honorable Johnny Isakson
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Richard Shelby
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Mark Kirk
The Honorable Pat Roberts
The Honorable Dean Heller
The Honorable Richard Burr
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
The Honorable Roger Wicker
The Honorable Scott Brown
The Honorable Richard Lugar
The Honorable James Inhofe
The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable John McCain