

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3012

April 19, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Schumer,

As members of the New Jersey congressional delegation, we are writing to strongly oppose the nomination of Scott Garrett to become President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM). It is clear that Mr. Garrett's record of animus toward the agency deems him unfit to assume the role of President and carry forth its mission to facilitate the export of U.S. goods and services and promote job creation across the United States.

For more than 80 years, EXIM has enjoyed broad and continuous bipartisan support. Despite close to a century of consensus, Mr. Garrett — as a senior member of the U.S. House of Representatives — was one of the most outspoken opponents of EXIM. Mr. Garrett did not simply oppose policies of the bank, he went out of his way to disparage the agency, undermine its functionality, and challenge its purpose and existence.

Mr. Garrett's public statements and congressional record opposing EXIM are clear, unambiguous, and far beyond the mainstream. He has referred to EXIM as "corporate welfare," "crony capitalism," and categorized it as "a bank that embodies the corruption of the free enterprise system."¹ Mr. Garrett's opposition contributed to Congress's inability to renew EXIM's charter in 2015, resulting in a 5-month lapse in authorization. The full functions of the agency were finally restored following extraordinary procedural maneuvering in the U.S. House and the successful passage of a discharge petition.

Mr. Garrett's attacks on the bank have demonstrated his adherence to orthodoxy at the expense of the people and interests he is supposed to serve. Since 2012, the bank has facilitated \$3 billion in New Jersey exports from 164 companies; 130 of these companies were small businesses. More than a quarter of that export activity — \$827 million — was from Mr. Garrett's former congressional district. Instead of working on behalf of his constituents to support or build upon the outsized benefits that EXIM had provided to his

constituents, Mr. Garrett chose to lead a stubborn opposition to the agency's record of job creation.


The Export-Import Bank is far too important to the United States' economy to place it under the stewardship of such an avowed opponent. It is unconscionable that the President would nominate Mr. Garrett, who explicitly called on Congress to "keep the Export-Import Bank out of business," to even serve on the bank's board, let alone lead this important agency. For these reasons, we again strongly urge members of the Senate to oppose Mr. Garrett's nomination as President of the Export-Import Bank, and urge the President to withdraw this nomination.

Sincerely,


BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress


FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress


BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress


ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress


DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress


DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress


JOSH GOTTHEIMER
Member of Congress

¹114th Congress, 1st Session, Issue: Vol. 161, No. 158, Rec. H7222 (daily ed. Oct 27, 2015)

Link: <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2015/10/27/house-section/article/H7217-1>

Video: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4666284/scott-garrett-export-import-bank>