

The Ex-Im Bank partners with American exporters, such as Tejas Tubular and Frenchy's Sausage Manufacturing in Houston, so they can close more deals abroad and support more middle class jobs here at home.

The Ex-Im Bank is an independent federal agency that supports and maintains U.S. jobs by filling gaps in private export financing at no cost to American taxpayers.

The Ex-Im Bank provides a variety of financing mechanisms, including working capital guarantees and export credit insurance, to promote the sale of U.S. goods and services abroad, 90 percent of which directly serve American small businesses.

"In fiscal year 2014, the Ex-Im Bank approved \$20.5 billion in total authorizations. These authorizations supported an estimated \$27.5 billion in U.S. export sales, as well as approximately 164,000 American jobs in communities across the country.

Recently Diversitybusiness.com announced the selection of Ex-Im Bank as one of the top agencies providing opportunities for small and minority businesses to expand export business operations.

Since 2009, the Ex-Im Bank has authorized more financing to support the growth of minority- and women-owned businesses than it did over the previous sixteen years combined.

In FY 2014, the Ex-Im Bank financed U.S. exports from minority- and women-owned businesses valued at more than \$2 billion.

Mr. Speaker, the Ex-Im is dedicated to pursuing equality of opportunity and supporting economic growth and jobs here in Houston and across America.

I strongly support H.R. 597, which reauthorizes the vital agency that does so much to help American business create and maintain high-paying jobs for American families.

HONORING DR. ALLEN PAUL WEAVER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a spiritual leader in the New Rochelle community, Reverend Dr. Paul Allen Weaver, who for 35 years has led the Bethesda Baptist Church of New Rochelle congregation with great distinction and remarkable integrity.

Originally from Orlando, Florida, Reverend Weaver answered the call to join the ministry at age 17. He graduated from Florida Memorial University in 1969 with a B.S. in Religious Education, and graduated with his Masters of Divinity Degree in 1972.

In July 1980, Reverend Weaver came to New Rochelle as Pastor of Bethesda Baptist, and began what has been an incredible multi-decade partnership with the community. During his formative years at Bethesda Baptist, Reverend Weaver helped institute many social programs to address the needs of the neighborhood. He created the Lad's Lunch Ministry, which fed over 100 people for over 25 years. Through the Helping Hand Ministry, the church was able to address the lack of adequate clothing for those less fortunate in the community. And the development of the Family Life

Center as part of the church's 120th anniversary has created a beautiful community facility for thousands to enjoy.

Reverend Weaver's list of accomplishments also extend beyond Bethesda Baptist. He has taught as an adjunct professor at New York Theological Seminary in New York, served as President of the prestigious Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York, and was President of the New Rochelle branch of the NAACP.

But Reverend Weaver's greatest joy has always been derived from his family. He married the love of his life, Deacon Nettie J. Weaver, and together they have two sons, Allen and Cyrus-Charles, a daughter-in-law, Ijnanya, and one grandson, Noble Xavier Weaver.

This year, Bethesda Baptist is holding a commemorative luncheon in Reverend Weaver's honor celebrating his 35 years as pastor. Congratulations to Reverend Weaver on this great honor.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 597, THE REFORM EXPORTS AND EXPAND THE AMERICAN ECONOMY ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 597, legislation to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, our nation's official export credit agency.

The Export-Import Bank, created 80 years ago during the depths of the Great Depression, has been authorized 16 times by Congress with overwhelming bipartisan majorities and has broad support from industry and labor for the very simple fact that it works.

Since 2009, the Ex-Im Bank has supported more than 1.3 million jobs and has returned over \$2 billion in deficit-reducing profits to the U.S. Treasury while providing over \$27 billion in export credit last year alone.

My home state of Texas is the number one beneficiary of Ex-Im's support for American business and jobs. Nearly one-in-five companies receiving financing from the Ex-Im Bank call Texas home. Ex-Im supports more than 135,000 jobs in Texas and provides financing to over 1,600 companies, over half of which are small businesses and nearly 10 percent are minority-owned.

The Ex-Im Bank has supported over \$11 billion in export sales for Houston-area companies for the past five years, more than any other region in the country, with \$3.5 billion going to local small businesses. In fact, Harris County is home to the largest number of small businesses that use Ex-Im.

America has already felt the negative impact of Congress's failure to reauthorize Ex-Im and freeze its ability to issue loans for the past four months. In September, General Electric, one of America's most important domestic manufacturers, announced it would move 500 jobs from Texas and other states to France, Hungary, and China because it would receive export credit financing overseas that's no longer available here.

Boeing, one of our nation's largest companies, announced in recent months that it has lost two satellite manufacturing bids to over-

seas competitors because it no longer had access to Ex-Im financing.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when foreign competition is becoming more fierce than ever before, with nations like China using any means necessary to win contracts in overseas markets, Congress must act immediately on this pressing matter. I call on all my colleagues to stand with working families and American businesses and join me by voting to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

LT. COL. THOMAS PARR—SOLDIER, SURGEON, AND SCHOLAR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Thomas J. Parr's story should be taught and known. This man reflects what is good and right about our country.

In 1967, Thomas Parr graduated from the United States Military Academy. While studying and training at West Point, he completed Ranger School. This earned him the coveted Ranger Tab. After graduation, he served in two tours to Germany and Vietnam. In Germany, he commanded an Armored Cavalry Troop during the Soviet Union's invasion of Czechoslovakia. In Vietnam, he served as Commander of a Mechanized Infantry Company. The training he endured in Ranger School provided him with the tools to soldier as a combat leader.

He commanded his troop to root out the Viet Cong underground organization. He did this by moving his troop quickly through the search areas in order to barricade villages harboring Viet Cong. This provided the village with protection and ultimately drove out the enemy. For his service and leadership in Vietnam, he earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and three Bronze Stars for Valor and Merit.

After serving time in combat, he soon realized his calling was medicine. Parr stayed enlisted and got his degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas in 1975. He traded his officer's uniform for scrubs and became an Orthopedic Surgeon. He interned and did his residency at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. By the late 80s, he relocated to Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington to become the Assistant Chief of Orthopedics. There, he set up the surgery department and trained physicians. He was among the first Army surgeons to start performing arthroscopic surgery.

He served our country over 20 years and retired as United States Army Medical Corps Colonel. Following his military retirement in 1987, Dr. Parr and his wife, Joannie, came back to Texas—of course. Once back in the Lone Star State, Dr. Parr started a private practice in Sugar Land. And the rest they say is history. His achievements as an orthopedic surgeon have made him well known and well respected. He is recognized nationally as a leader in Orthopedic and Sports Injury Medicine and today, he continues to make remarkable strides in the medical field. He's the first in the nation to perform MAKOplasty—a robotic arm procedure used in knee replacement surgery.

As a staunch defender of America and her values, Dr. Parr has translated his service from the battlefield to the operating room and now into our community. Today, he serves on the Board of Directors for the West Point Society of Greater Houston, helping deserving youth to apply and obtain acceptance into any of our nation's military academies.

With his twenty years of military service and medical expertise, Dr. Parr helps future military cadets work their way through the medical requirements of eligibility.

Despite his busy schedule, Dr. Parr always has time to help those with ties to the military service. Once a Marine, always a Marine.

Dr. Parr's life journey is one of honor, duty, God, country and helping his fellow man. From the United States Military Academy at West Point to the jungles of Vietnam, to the operating rooms of Washington and now in the surgical rooms in Houston, Texas, Dr. Parr has made, and is still making, a difference to our nation. And that's just the way it is.

H.R. 597—TO REAUTHORIZE THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, it's been almost four months since Congress failed to renew the Export-Import Bank's charter—marking the first lapse in the Bank's 81 years of operation. This disservice to American businesses must end.

The Export-Import Bank helps U.S.-made products remain competitive and reach overseas markets, while supporting thousands of middle-class jobs. In my own district during the last eight years, the Ex-Im Bank has supported \$2.2 billion worth of exports and over 14,000 jobs at 22 exporters—including nine small businesses.

The Bank has been reauthorized 16 times by Republican and Democratic Presidents. There is no reason to keep politicizing the Bank's Reauthorization.

I urge immediate passage.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 597, THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK REFORM AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 597, as amended. It is mystifying to me why there is such vociferous opposition to the Export-Import Bank among a majority of our Republican colleagues. For decades, a solid majority of Republicans have joined with Democrats to support the Bank and its vital role in creating and sustaining jobs for American workers.

But not now. Why? The Export-Import Bank should appeal to all Republicans, as it does to us Democrats.

The Bank supports the American private sector, both exporters and lenders. It steps in

only when needed to level the playing field in international competition. Virtually all of its financing is issued as guarantees and insurance of loans by commercial lenders. It finances only American-made goods and American-provided services. Some 90 percent of its financing is for exports by American small businesses, last year some 3,300 firms. The result last year was 164,000 jobs for American workers, 6,500 in New York. What could be more business-friendly?

The Bank should appeal to fiscal conservatives as well. It is operated on a business-like basis. It charges fees, premiums and interest, at full market rates. Those receipts fully cover all the Bank's expenses. It even generates a surplus that goes to the U.S. Treasury to reduce the federal deficit. Last year, that deficit reduction was \$675 million. What could be more fiscally prudent?

The Bank is a careful lender. Its loss rate is below 2 percent, far lower than any commercial bank. The Bank maintains cash reserves against the risk of loss, currently amounting to \$5 billion. All of those reserves are generated from its user fees, not the taxpayer. Why doesn't that record appeal to Republicans, as it does to Democrats?

The Bank is a fiscally-prudent solution to a real-world problem: foreign competition that has its own financial support. Some 60 foreign governments operate export finance programs. Some, like China's, Japan's, Germany's and even Canada's, are much larger than Ex-Im. Financing is a crucial element of trade competition: a company that can bring customer financing to the table often wins the transaction. When foreign governments back their exporters, American exporters and their workers lose. Ex-Im Bank is our answer.

So I simply cannot understand why a majority of Republicans in this House forced the Bank to close its financing window in July. It can't be due to subsidy, because there isn't any. It can't be due to government competition with the private sector, because the Bank doesn't do that. It can't be for any budgetary reason, because the Bank is self-financing.

For those of us who support Ex-Im Bank and the American firms and workers that the Bank sustains, the only conclusion we can draw is that the excessive campaign against Ex-Im Bank is another example of hard-bitten, intransigent ideology eclipsing the need to embrace a business-friendly, budget-conscious, prudent program for America.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month—a month to especially recognize and celebrate breast cancer patients, survivors, and advocates. While breast cancer affects individuals and families throughout the year, I especially appreciate the awareness and advocacy efforts that occur this week, especially the Walk for Life and Women's Night Out.

The Walk for Life/Race for Life at Palmetto Health, though rescheduled due to the tragic flooding, is celebrating twenty-five years of

raising funds and awareness for survivors and treatments in the Midlands. In the past twenty-five years, the Walk for Life, led by Chair Janet Snider, has gone from 200 participants in the first year to over 11,000 participants last year, raising over \$800,000.

Women's Night Out at Lexington Medical Center, led by President Mike Biediger, is an inspiring evening at Burkett, Burkett, and Burkett CPAs, where the hospital honors breast cancer patients, survivors, and their families. I know firsthand of the success at Lexington Medical Center, where my son Addison in high school was successfully treated for thyroid cancer determined by Dr. H.W. Bledsoe, Jr., and now himself is an orthopedic surgeon.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

THE "URGENCY OF NOW"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of action—the preference for progress of a status quo that is robbing millions of Americans of opportunity. Every person in this chamber was elected to improve this country and make the lives of our constituents a little bit easier.

Nowhere is it easier to improve the quality of life for Americans than in investing for the long-term in our transportation infrastructure. The American economy depends upon the rapid delivery of goods and services.

But as the White House pointed out in 2014's "Economic Analysis of Transportation Infrastructure Investment," we are failing to support this vital network of roads, bridges, railways and other means of transportation.

Last year, the World Economic Forum ranked the United States' roads 18th in the world; 65% of our major roads are in less than "good" condition; one in four requires significant repair. These inadequacies directly impact us all. Each year, we spend 5.5 billion unnecessary hours stuck in traffic—that's a \$120 billion in extra fuel and unproductive time.

Those figures cost business and industry an extra \$27 billion in freight costs and delays. Money that could have gone to employees, or shareholders, or to investments in the future.

But it isn't just corporations paying the price. It is the quarter of the 33,000 traffic fatalities where road conditions were a factor. It is the 45 percent of Americans who cannot access adequate transit.

Today, the House voted to fund yet another short-term bill—as it should—to keep our surface transportation system moving. At the same time, this House voted to delay implementation of a 6-year-old law that requires "positive train control"—a technology that saves lives and which I want to see rolled out as soon as possible—because they thought it important to provide the rail industry with certainty.

But the simple fact is those two principles are at odds—because we aren't providing any certainty to American industry and American