

**Statement for the Record**  
Senator Mark Kirk (IL)

Senate Banking Subcommittee on Security and International Trade and Finance  
*Hearing on the Reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank of the United States*  
June 30, 2011

I would like to thank Chairman Warner and Ranking Member Johanns for holding this important hearing.

I support reauthorizing the Ex-Im Bank before its mandate expires on September 30, 2011. As a self-sustaining agency, it carries no cost to the taxpayer. In fact, it has earned \$4.5 billion in revenues for the US Treasury since 1992.

Support from Ex-Im remains important for multinational companies as well as small and medium size enterprises across the US. Caterpillar, for example, employs 23,000 people in Illinois and has benefitted from \$300 million of the Bank's financing since 2006. Since 2007, Ex-Im also provided financing to 180 small businesses across our state.

As we work to reauthorize Ex-Im, I urge this committee to adopt commonsense reforms to render Ex-Im a more competitive and effective global export credit agency. Foremost, I support increasing Ex-Im's lending cap to \$160 billion by FY2014, consistent with the level that passed the House Committee on Financial Services on June 22, 2011 as part of the Securing American Jobs Through Exports Act of 2011 (H.R. 2072).

I believe the Committee should lower the domestic content requirement for Ex-Im supported exports. According to the Chamber of Commerce, current policy "fails to account for the present day reality of global supply chains which exporters need to maintain their international competitiveness."

Additionally, I support the recommendations made by Ex-Im's Office of Inspector General to streamline Ex-Im programs and operations and to stamp out fraud and abuse.

Without these reforms, Ex-Im stands to lose additional ground to its global competitors. Despite recent increases in export volumes, Ex-Im still finances less than 5 percent of U.S. exports. In 2010, China supported over three times the amount of medium- and long-term official export credit volume than the United States.

Ex-Im's mission remains critical to maintaining U.S. competitiveness, opening new markets for our employers and creating American jobs. However, it is no replacement for sound tax and trade policy that provides necessary incentives to keep jobs in the US and gives American companies the tools to compete globally. In addition, we must curb the regulatory zeal of Washington's bureaucrats, which threatens to drive jobs abroad.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Thank you.