

**Mr. Max Cleland**  
**Board Member - Designate**  
**Export-Import Bank of the United States**  
**Before the Committee on Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**  
**United States Senate**  
**9:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 9, 2003 - Dirksen 538**

Mr. Chairman, Senator Sarbanes, distinguished Members of this Committee and my former colleagues.

It is good to be back home in the United States Senate where I spent six years of my life serving the people of Georgia and the United States. I am honored to have this opportunity, if this committee so decides, to have a new home at the Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank). I would like to thank the Minority Leader, Senator Tom Daschle and President Bush for the opportunity to continue my service in public life. As a former chairman of the Ex-Im Bank, Mr. John Robson, once declared before this committee, "...I relish this new challenge because I have never found a canvas as big to paint on as public service offers..."

But, what kind of picture shall we working together paint? The picture I would like to paint over the course of my tenure on Ex-Im Bank's Board is of an expanding economy that creates jobs. One way to maximize the jobs created in this country is by an expansion of exports. Ex-Im Bank is needed now more than ever to create jobs now here in America. Since its creation by President Franklin Roosevelt almost 70 years ago, this marvelous agency is one of the tremendous tools we have at our disposal to reverse the downturn in the job market.

In 2003, Ex-Im Bank created and sustained thousands of American jobs through \$14 billion dollars in support of this nation's exports. In my home state of Georgia over the last few years, the Bank has supported over \$600 million dollars in exports for 126 different companies in 45 separate communities. This is a picture of job creation and support for our exports I would like to paint for my state and my nation were I to be confirmed by the United States Senate.

Lastly, I think my service in this body on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, especially my service on the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Subcommittee on Aviation, will stand me in good stead as I attempt to make my contributions to the Bank's decisions. I am especially hopeful that I can become a spokesperson for the evolution of small business in America since I spent six years on the Small Business Committee as well.

Thank you for your time, Mr. Chairman, Senator Sarbanes and Members of the committee. I would especially like to thank my potential colleagues, Ms. April Foley and Mr. Joe Grandmaison for helping me prepare for today's hearing. I would like to especially thank Chairman Merrill for his continued support and advice these past weeks. They and the distinguished members of Ex-Im Bank's staff have been exceptional in their assistance.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman. I ask you and the Committee for your support as a Director of Ex-Im Bank.