

**Prepared Statement of
Linda Mysliwy Conlin
First Vice President-Designate
Export-Import Bank of the United States**

**Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
United States Senate
Wednesday, July 12, 2006
10:30am**

Mr. Chairman, Senator Sarbanes, distinguished members of the Committee, I am pleased to come before you today as the President's nominee to become First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. I appreciate the confidence the President has placed in me and I am grateful for another opportunity to contribute to an institution where I have had the privilege to serve these past two years.

If confirmed, I look forward to continuing to work with the members and staff of this Committee to help sustain and increase the number of high-paying U.S. jobs by financing export transactions that otherwise would not go forward.

I would like to recognize my husband, Joe, and my dear friend, Louise Wheeler, who are with me here today, and the fine team from the Ex-Im Bank. I would like to acknowledge as well the colleagues from our sister U.S. government agencies and the industry association representatives here today. Their cooperation and support have meant so much during my tenure as a Member of the Board at Ex-Im Bank.

On February 26, 2004, I came before the Committee as the President's nominee to be a Director at the Export-Import Bank. Since then, I have endeavored to honor the confidence that you placed in me and the commitment I made to you: simply stated, to ensure that U.S. exporters have the financing tools they need to succeed in today's highly competitive global economy.

As a Board member, I have been given the responsibility of overseeing a key Congressional mandate: increasing the Bank's financing of environmentally beneficial goods and services, including renewable energy. We continue to make a difference in this area. Ex-Im Bank has supported more than \$1.1 billion of U.S. exports of environmentally beneficial goods and services over the past four years. In this regard, it has been personally gratifying for me to work with the Bank's Environmental Exports Team, a group of enthusiastic and dedicated professionals from various departments who have helped implement this program.

As a result, Ex-Im financing is supporting high-quality jobs in the U.S., while enabling international buyers to access U.S. technology to address important global environmental needs.

As a former small business owner, I am also pleased to be working with the many small and medium-sized companies that make up the lion's share of the U.S. environmental sector. These entrepreneurs serve as the backbone of the American economy and their risk-taking fuels our free market system. I want to do everything I can to help them grow. A key to that growth is Ex-Im financing that can help shoulder the risk of opening up new markets overseas.

I have personally witnessed the positive results of the Bank's expanded small business program over the past year. Assuming the Bank is provided sufficient administrative resources going forward, I firmly believe that the Bank's efforts focused on small businesses will continue to grow. I, therefore, welcome the opportunity to assist Acting Chairman Jim Lambricht in helping these companies succeed in the global marketplace.

It has also been my pleasure to work with Ex-Im's Sub-Saharan Africa Advisory Committee and business development team to increase financing in that region, building upon the hard work and success of my former colleague and Ex-Im Bank Board Member-Designate, Joe Grandmaison. I am pleased to say that Ex-Im Bank is implementing many of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, including strategies to expand cooperation with leading African banks and to build business in the important Gulf of Guinea region.

If confirmed as First Vice President, I will use my experience both at Ex-Im Bank and in trade development at the U.S. Department of Commerce to leverage the resources of federal agencies and industry organizations to accomplish our shared goals.

I welcome the opportunity to work with Ex-Im Bank's Chairman and executive leadership to ensure that Ex-Im Bank's programs and policies remain competitive. I would look forward to engaging the energy and good ideas of the Bank's bipartisan Board, the talent and innovation of the dedicated professional staff, as well as the experience and customer knowledge from Ex-Im Bank's many important stakeholders in the exporting community.

Mr. Chairman, Senator Sarbanes, members of the Committee, I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of my nomination and will be pleased to respond to your questions.