

Testimony of John Jovanovic
Nominee of President Trump to be
Chairman & President of Export-Import Bank of the United States

Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

June 12, 2025

Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Warren, and distinguished members of this Committee, I am honored to be here today as President Trump's Nominee to serve as Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Thank you for the time many of you and your staff have graciously spent with me in anticipation of this hearing.

I would like to thank President Trump for his passionate commitment to working class Americans, and his unwavering devotion to America's reindustrialization, ensuring the American worker will once again produce world-class products and implement world-leading technologies. I am grateful for the opportunity to support him in this mission; it is an honor of a lifetime.

My wife, Daphne, is here with me today. She is just as radiant as she was on our first date back in college. I want to thank her for her boundless love and support, and for being an extraordinary mother to our four young children – Philomena, John Jr., Domenica, and Giovanna Ines.

Here with me today as well, along with other family and dear friends, are two more women who have played an outsized role in my life, especially since my parents passed away too soon. My aunt Mira and my mother-in-law Lisa – who have been mothers to me as much as I have felt a son to both of them. Thank you all for the love and guidance you have generously shared.

Throughout this confirmation process, I have benefited from the insights and support of the current acting, as well as the former leadership of the Export-Import Bank from both parties. I am immensely grateful to its former Chairs Reta Jo Lewis, Kimberly Reed, and Fred Hochberg for their advice and support.

I would not be sitting here today without the stable, well-paying manufacturing jobs that once were abundantly available in America. After suffering the horrors of World War II and experiencing the economic scarcity and oppression that followed under Communism in southeast Europe, my family immigrated legally to America – starting over from scratch when my parents were both young. Without knowing a word of English, they took up the toughest of jobs – including my grandfather working varying shifts at a steel plant. It was thanks to their hard work, and strong working-class jobs, that I got to live the American dream. I was the first in my family to attend college, and

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later the first to obtain a graduate degree, earning an MBA from the Wharton School of Business.

I went on to build a career financing, investing, and business building across the energy, critical infrastructure, mining, and manufacturing industries. During my prior government service, I was a Managing Director and Regional Head at the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), where I worked to mobilize U.S.-led financing alternatives to counter China and Russia. I was also tasked with implementing the *Washington Agreements* brokered by President Trump between Kosovo and Serbia by coordinating an “all of government” economic engagement, including EXIM and DFC.

I have managed the successful development and construction of leading U.S. energy export projects, as well as the expansion of specialized manufacturing companies that produce vital tools and equipment, made in the USA, sold all around the world.

All throughout, I developed a keen understanding of how large and small businesses eager to expand their operations make the toughest of strategic decisions – especially the challenges they face in financing growth.

The crisis facing the American economy, especially those communities across our nation that have been decimated by the closure or offshoring of factories and production facilities, is dire: millions of Americans have lost their steady manufacturing jobs since the beginning of this new century. All the while, our strategic adversary China has used its trade surplus to build its military and gain control of vital global supply chains.

Distinguished Committee members, I came away from our conversations deeply heartened that you share the same concerns about the future of America and our economic security. I am confident that with your support, and God’s help, the Export-Import Bank can be an important tool in carrying out President Trump’s vision of revitalizing America’s economy, and helping to create and support the jobs of the future across our great country – especially the small businesses in our communities most in need. We can help our country regain control over our most vital supply chains, ensuring that America will always have access to everything Americans need, when we need it most.

Together, we can play a key role in ensuring that future generations of Americans live in times of freedom, economic security, and U.S.-led innovation. I hope for the opportunity

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to lead the Export-Import Bank in pursuit of this unifying goal. Thank you for considering my nomination. I look forward to your questions.