

Testimony of Bijan Rafiekian
Member, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
July 11, 2007

Thank you Chairman Dodd, Senator Shelby, and Members of the Committee. I am most honored and grateful to be here before you today. With your permission, I would like to introduce my family. My wife of twenty five years Gissou, my daughter Christine who is a sophomore at the American University studying law and society and international service and my daughter Alexandra who will be a freshman at Churchill High School.

I am most grateful to President Bush for re-nominating me and granting me the greatest honor of my life with the opportunity to serve my country, The United States of America, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of The United States.

With nine months of service in this capacity, I have developed an understanding of the Bank's operations and mission. I have been fortunate to work closely with the most talented and dedicated professional staff at the EXIM Bank and I would like to express my appreciation for their hard work in support of American exporters and their contribution to maintaining and expanding U.S. jobs through exports. Serving together with my distinguished colleagues on the board of directors and carrying out the policies articulated by the Congress of The United States has been a privilege and a point of personal pride for me.

Mr. Chairman, when I came before this (*honorable*) committee in September 2006, I testified that if confirmed, I would do my very best to carry out the prudential and fiduciary responsibilities of the office I was nominated to serve. It is with humility and a great sense of appreciation for the trust and confidence you placed in me and it is with personal pride that I am here today to present to you that I have kept my promise in my capacity as a member of the board of directors of the Export-Import Bank of The United States. I applied my experience with diligence to make certain that as we eagerly and aggressively fulfill our mission to support American exporters and U.S. jobs, the interests of U.S. taxpayers are protected.

In addition to carrying out the duties of the office I serve on the board of directors, I have also served as the chairman of the audit committee of the board of directors. Together with my colleagues, members of the audit committee, overseeing the work of independent internal and external auditors, I have made certain that we provide continuous examination and scrutiny of the adequacy of safeguards and systems of internal control to ensure the continuity of safety and soundness of the operation of the Bank in an independent fashion.

In addition to my work on the board of directors and my responsibility as the chairman of the audit committee, I also serve as an ex-officio member of the credit committee of the bank representing the board of directors on this committee. My work on this committee has afforded me the opportunity to observe the competence and dedication of professional staff members of the credit committee and the opportunity to apply my experience and contribute to the work of the credit committee.

I have worked closely with our Small business division to expand our reach and support for small businesses and have actively participated in expanding our city state partnerships in support of small businesses. I have worked with my colleagues at the Department of Commerce and Trade Development Agency to do more for the services sector within the frame of our charter and authorizations.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I am here today to testify that if confirmed, I shall continue my work in carrying out the responsibilities of the office I am designated to serve with the same degree of diligence, care and dedication and with the same vigor as I have in the past nine months. I am here to testify that if confirmed, I shall uphold the highest standards of integrity and prudence consistent with the honor and responsibility of the office I am designated to serve.

I am grateful to you for giving me this great honor to come before you today. In respect for your time, I keep my remarks brief and I welcome the opportunity to answer your questions.

Thank you.