

**Opening Statement of David Slade
Nominee for First Vice President and Vice Chairman
Export Import Bank of the United States**

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

I would also like to thank President Trump for the strategic priority he has placed on revitalizing American industry, for the central role he envisions for EXIM in delivering on that priority, and for the position he has asked me to serve as part of that strategic mission.

I am also immensely grateful to the President and Chairman of EXIM, Mr. John Jovanovic, for all his support, and for his great leadership of the Bank.

I'm pleased to say my son Tyler is here with me today, as are many of my EXIM colleagues, for whose support I am very grateful. My daughter Tara and my wife Marilyn unfortunately could not make it in person, but they are here with me in spirit.

Marilyn and I are New Englanders, and we met in high school in Beverly, Massachusetts, a town on the north shore of Boston. Incidentally, Marilyn's family are Italian immigrants who came to America in pursuit of a better life and the promise of the American Dream. Her grandparents worked in what was once a giant shoe factory in Beverly that employed thousands of hard-working people, giving Marilyn's family and so many others the opportunity to realize that Dream. But that factory is no longer in Beverly, a victim of offshoring, like too many other factories in too many other communities across America. This is a story I know all too well, and one of my many inspirations for ultimately working with the Export-Import Bank.

In retrospect, I think my journey to EXIM started for me as a child. For as long as I can remember, I've been fascinated by international affairs. I believe that's because I was born on a U.S. Army base in Germany, where my father was then serving. That fascination drove me to supplement my law degree from Harvard with a master's degree in international affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts, thus preparing me for a career in international law and finance.

For more than three decades, I worked as an international finance attorney representing official credit agencies on complex infrastructure, manufacturing, mining, and energy projects all around the world. In what would become the first part of a 35-year career with EXIM, my very first client as a young partner at a major law firm was the Export-Import Bank, which I represented during all those decades on complex projects, all of which were central to the core mission of the Bank.

In 2019, I had the honor and privilege of being appointed as General Counsel of EXIM during the first Trump Administration. This was a difficult time for the Bank, as 2019 was the year when

EXIM regained its Board quorum after a four-year lapse, and the year when it was last reauthorized.

On that note, I want to take a moment to thank Congress, especially many of the members of this Committee, for reauthorizing the Bank in 2019, and establishing the all-important China and Transformational Exports Program, CTEP which, as General Counsel, I had a key role in standing up for the Bank.

At the start of the second Trump administration, I had the opportunity to join the Transition Team for EXIM to help align the Bank's strategic priorities with President Trump's vision of revitalizing the American economy. Once Chairman Jovanovic was confirmed to serve at the helm of EXIM, I was honored that he asked me to stay at the Bank to continue implementing his four strategic priorities, namely: getting back to basics to make sure American companies of all sizes win around the world, unleashing American energy dominance with an all-of-the above-approach, strengthening American supply chain security, and ensuring America leads in the industries of the future, all to create and preserve well-paying U.S. jobs.

In short, I've had the privilege and opportunity to work with EXIM for 35 years, under six Presidents, half Republican and half Democrat. What I love about the Bank is that it is all about the mission, and my support for that mission has been the one constant theme throughout my entire career. I look forward to the opportunity, if confirmed, to support Chairman Jovanovic and help the Bank fully realize its potential to be a strong and effective tool for maintaining America's economic leadership, for strengthening our domestic industrial base, and for ensuring our nation remains the most prosperous and competitive country in the world, for decades to come.

Thank you again for considering my nomination, and I look forward to your questions.