

Statement by Mark L. Greenblatt
Nominee for Inspector General at the Export-Import Bank of the United States
Before the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
United States Senate
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Thank you, Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Brown, and Members of the Committee. It is an honor to appear before you as the nominee to serve as the Inspector General (IG) of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM).

At the outset, I would like to thank my family, friends, and colleagues for their support. In particular, I would like to recognize my parents, my late mother Marian and my father Mickey, who instilled in me qualities like honesty, integrity, and perseverance, and whose hard work has afforded me wonderful opportunities; my wife Jana who has been unfailingly supportive for the past 17 years; and my two boys, Micah and Levi, who keep me grounded and serve as rambunctious reminders of why we are all here: to improve our country for future generations.

I come from a long line of small-business owners—from my grandparents, who owned a small deli in West Philadelphia, to my father, who started three successful businesses and used our home as collateral for a loan to keep a business afloat in tough times, to both of my brothers, one of whom runs a manufacturing company that exports products all around the world from a small factory right up the road in Baltimore.

As you can see, small business is in my blood.

Unfortunately, I was the black sheep who went to law school. The good news is that I followed in my mother's footsteps and dedicated my career to public service. I have spent the past 14 years conducting government oversight, investigating waste, fraud, and abuse in government programs.

I started my public service here at the U.S. Senate, in the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI). During my PSI tenure, I led an investigative staff through numerous complex, bipartisan inquiries that identified waste and abuses in important programs such as Medicare and the United Nations. For instance, I led the Subcommittee's investigation into the United Nations' Oil-for-Food Program, a \$64 billion operation that was plagued with corruption across the globe.

After five and a half years at Senate investigations, I joined the special investigations unit of the Department of Justice OIG. At the DOJ OIG, I led several investigations into sensitive matters, such as allegations of widespread politicization and misconduct in DOJ's Voting Section and nepotism, misuse of office, conflict of interest, and whistleblower retaliation by senior DOJ officials.

In 2014, after more than five years at DOJ OIG, I moved to the Department of Commerce OIG, where I lead the OIG's Office of Investigations (OI) as the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations. With the help of the highly talented OI leadership team and staff, I spearheaded a major revitalization of the division, restoring its integrity and professionalism and creating a culture of ownership and success. I am pleased to report that we have achieved considerable results in a short time, such as securing several significant indictments and convictions that resulted in millions of dollars in ill-gotten gains coming back to the U.S. Treasury; issuing more than a dozen public investigative reports that identified senior-level misconduct and tens of millions of dollars in actual or potential waste, fraud, and abuse; establishing a robust digital analysis program; developing a Special Investigations unit that focuses on highly sensitive matters, such as allegations of ethical violations and senior-level misconduct; and implementing a successful Whistleblower Protection Ombudsperson program.

It is the nexus between these two threads—my experience in government oversight, on the one hand, and my family's background in small business, on the other—that makes me excited at the possibility of becoming the EXIM Inspector General. I appreciate EXIM's important mission of supporting American jobs by facilitating the export of goods and services. The Inspector General plays a crucial role, by providing objective oversight to promote integrity, economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in EXIM's operations. If confirmed, I would strive to be an agent of positive change, focusing on eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse and identifying problems and making recommendations for corrective actions to EXIM's leadership.

I understand the critical role that independence plays in an Inspector General's mission. The core principles of integrity, objectivity, fairness, and accountability must guide an IG's judgment and decision-making. I am fortunate to have served under the leadership of several strong role models, including several stalwarts in the Inspector General community, on how to run probing, objective investigations that sought to uncover the truth and effect positive change.

With that in mind, if I am confirmed, I intend to oversee an office that conducts audits and evaluations in a thorough and comprehensive manner; pursues investigations aggressively and follows the facts wherever they may lead; issues fair and impartial reports; and makes recommendations to improve the Bank's programs. Thankfully, all of my interactions with the EXIM OIG leadership and staff indicate that they share that vision and operate in that manner now.

I believe that an OIG can fulfill its responsibility to provide independent oversight, while simultaneously maintaining a constructive relationship with the agency. When I arrived at the Commerce Department, I dedicated considerable energy to establishing and maintaining a healthy relationship with the Department. Our oversight is probative, insightful, and independent, which has included telling hard truths as necessary, but it is built on a foundation of good faith and the shared goal of improving the agency's results for the benefit of the American taxpayer. I look forward to developing that same type of healthy and productive relationship with EXIM's Board and staff.

I also appreciate the importance of maintaining strong relations with this Committee and other EXIM stakeholders in Congress. In light of my tenure conducting oversight for the Senate, the significance of that relationship resonates with me on a personal level. With that in mind, if confirmed, I will maintain direct and frank communications with this Committee and other stakeholders in Congress.

In closing, I understand the challenges ahead and look forward to the opportunity to serve the American people in this new role. I thank the Committee for its consideration of my nomination and, if confirmed, I will work with you to achieve our common goals.

Thank you, and I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you might have.