

September 12, 2019

Dear Member of Congress:

You recently received a letter from the [National Association of Manufacturers](#) not only urging you to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, but to “fix” the quorum issues that limited the amount the bank could finance. For our part, we believe the Export-Import Bank is the epitome of corporate welfare and cronyism and should be eliminated, and we urge you to oppose its renewal.

In making its case, NAM writes that it “estimated that manufacturers in America lost \$119 billion in output, which translated into 80,000 fewer manufacturing jobs in 2016 and 2017 alone.” Since we could not find the source of this estimate, it is hard to assess its accuracy. But what we do know is that in 2016 and 2017, [manufacturing jobs](#) increased by 181,000. In fact, since the Export-Import Bank lost its quorum in July of 2015, America has added about 500,000 manufacturing jobs.

Despite NAM’s attempts to paint a bleak jobs picture, manufacturing has not suffered from the lapse in Export-Import Bank financing. But don’t take our word for it. In a [release](#) this past July on the strength of the manufacturing sector, NAM itself said: “Manufacturing job openings were also at an all-time high in May with 509,000 open jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey. This solid job creation is actually exacerbating an existing challenge in the industry: a lack of enough skilled workers.”

It is hard to square what NAM was saying in July with what it is saying now regarding the Export-Import Bank’s impact on manufacturing jobs. Here are a few other pertinent claims made by NAM in its July release:

- “For the past two years, manufacturers have been setting new records when it comes to manufacturing output, and through the first quarter of 2019, the industry has continued to reach new heights.”
- “Four out of five manufacturers remain positive about their company’s outlook, according to the National Association of Manufacturers’ latest Outlook Survey, and new Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) data find that manufacturers’ level of output hit an all-time high once again.”
- “In fact, manufacturing accounted for 11.3 percent of real GDP in the first quarter of 2019—and the industry continues to have the largest economic multiplier of any major sector.”
- “... manufacturing in the United States is alive and kicking, producing more goods than ever and continuing to be a bright spot in the economy.”

The Export-Import Bank is part of government’s long, sad history of rigging the economy by picking winners and losers through subsidies, special tax breaks, regulatory barriers, and protectionist policies that prevent competition. Bank supporters deny the bank is corporate welfare, but what else would you call giving a select few companies taxpayer-backed loans with terms not available in the private market and not available to the vast majority of American businesses? Meanwhile, those same American businesses are put at a competitive disadvantage when taxpayer dollars are used to subsidize foreign competitors. That is not just unfair, it hurts the economy and makes it harder for everyday Americans to get ahead.

We urge you to oppose the renewal of the Export-Import Bank.

Cordially,

Americans for Prosperity
FreedomWorks
Taxpayers for Common Sense
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Club for Growth
Center for Freedom and Prosperity
American Commitment
Secure America’s Future Economy

