

**Center for Biological Diversity * Center for International Environmental Law
Endangered Species Coalition * Food & Water Watch * Friends of the Earth * Greenpeace
Natural Resources Defense Council * Oil Change International * Public Citizen
Sierra Club * Sunrise Movement**

June 25, 2019

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chairwoman
Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
Ranking Member
Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
4340 O'Neill House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Chairwoman Waters and Ranking Member McHenry,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we write to recommend that the House Committee on Financial Services make fundamental reforms to the Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank) as you consider legislation to reauthorize this important institution. Projects and loans from the Ex-Im Bank have supported fossil-fuel and other extractive projects that have caused substantial damage to World Heritage sites like the Great Barrier Reef, polluted the environment of local and indigenous communities, harmed human health, contributed to armed conflict and human rights abuse, and worsened corruption in developing nations.

Simply put, the Ex-Im Bank has not lived up to the ideals and principles that our nation cherishes. The Ex-Im Bank's environmental impacts are now global, as its disproportionate financial support of fossil-fuel projects exacerbates the damage from climate change and harms every American now and into the future. As an institution that is wholly funded by the American people, the Ex-Im Bank should comply with both the letter and spirit of all U.S. laws. Unfortunately, the Bank ignores most environmental laws in its operation, undermining environmental justice and equity around the world. Accordingly, we recommend the following reforms to the institution.

First, the Ex-Im Bank should fully comply with the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") so that any American who cares about how their tax dollars are invested overseas has an opportunity to provide meaningful comment on the Bank's proposals. Currently, the Ex-Im Bank provides only the most cursory opportunity to provide input, and the Bank believes it has no obligation to consider or respond to what the public has to say when it ultimately makes a decision. The purposes of NEPA are to make sure that every agency of the federal government is fully aware of the environmental consequences of its actions and to provide the public a meaningful voice. Complying with NEPA would only strengthen the decision-making of the Bank and help guarantee that every project meets the high standards of the United States.

Second, the Ex-Im Bank should fully comply with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"). Last month, an international group of scientists released a report that one million species around the world face extinction in the coming decades due to climate change and other

human activities. The ESA has a global scope — over 650 endangered and threatened foreign species are federally protected around the world. It therefore makes little sense for the Ex-Im Bank to fund projects that hasten the extinction of wildlife and plants when our nation has already declared that we must take action to protect and recover them. Complying with the ESA would provide an important safeguard to make sure that the Bank only funds environmentally sustainable projects.

Finally, the funding of fossil-fuel infrastructure should be phased out as quickly as possible, if not immediately. Every approved fossil-fuel project locks in additional greenhouse gas pollution for decades to come, worsening the global climate crisis and ignoring the warnings of the U.S. government's own climate scientists and scientists from around the world. The U.S. National Climate Assessment conclusively determined that climate change will cause more frequent and extreme weather events, damaging ecosystems, agriculture, infrastructure, and personal property resulting in tens to hundreds of billions of dollars in damage. Any profits made through the Ex-Im Bank are dwarfed by orders of magnitude by the damage caused by climate change.

If the Ex-Im Bank is allowed to continue its business-as-usual approach in the coming years, it will harm the environment at home and abroad and will diminish the United States' reputation and leadership abroad. Congress has an opportunity to fundamentally reform the Ex-Im Bank and we urge you to take action now to ensure the Bank helps improve the livelihood of people and the environment around the world.

Sincerely,

350 Spokane
Alliance for Appalachia
Animal Legal Defense Council
Animal Welfare Institute
Carolina Biodiesel
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for International Environmental Law
Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
Ciudadanos Del Karso
Climate Hawks Vote
Conservation Congress
CORALations
Cottonwood Environmental Law Center
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families
Desert Tortoise Council
Don't Waste Arizona
Earth Action
Earth Ethics
EEECHO
Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Species Coalition

Environment in the Public Interest
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Food & Water Watch
Food Democracy Now!
Foundation Earth
Friends of the Cloquet Valley State Forest
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Wisconsin Wolf and Wildlife
Fund for Wild Nature
Glynn Environmental Coalition
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace US
Hands Across the Sand / Land
Heartwood
Hip Hop Caucus
Humboldt Baykeeper
inNative
Institute for Policy Studies
International Fund for Animal Welfare
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
KyotoUSA
Maryland Ornithological Society
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter
Native Plant Conservation Campaign
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Hampshire Audubon
NY4WHALES
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Oil Change International
Operation HomeCare
Partnership for Policy Integrity
People Demanding Action
Pesticide Free Zone
Physicians for Social Responsibility Arizona
Public Citizen
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
Save Our Sky Blue Waters
SAVE THE FROGS!
Save Wolves Now Network
Sierra Club
South Carolina Interfaith Power & Light
Spirit of the Sage Council
Stand.earth
Sunrise Movement
Sustainable Arizona

Sustaining Way
The Cloud Foundation
The Rachel Carson Council
Three Sisters Farm & Ranch Co-op
Unexpected Wildlife Refuge
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Western Watersheds Project
Wilderness Watch
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation