

Chairman Hensarling Releases Statement on Ex-Im Discharge Petition

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Press Release

WASHINGTON – U.S. Congressman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, released the following statement regarding the filing of a discharge petition on the Export-Import Bank:

“Ex-Im supporters have so far failed to convince a majority of Republicans on the Financial Services Committee to support a vote on reauthorizing the Bank. This is an issue we’ve whipped no less than three times and the majority of Republicans on the committee have said they do not favor bringing Ex-Im up for a vote. In the 12 years I’ve been a member of the committee, I am unaware of any chairman – Republican or Democrat – who ever moved a bill in committee that was not supported by a majority of the majority.

“I respect my colleagues who believe Ex-Im is essential economic development, just as I respect those who believe Ex-Im is unfair and harmful corporate welfare. But I hope all Republicans, regardless of their stand on this one issue, will recognize that signing a discharge petition sets a very serious, very dangerous precedent for our Republican majority that goes far beyond Ex-Im. My colleagues who consistently and rightfully call for regular order need to understand that a discharge petition is the exact opposite of regular order. It bypasses the committees, including the Rules Committee, and it bypasses our Conference. It allows for zero amendments. Signing a discharge petition puts the minority in charge and effectively makes Nancy Pelosi the Speaker of the House. At a time when our Republican Conference is divided, this will divide it even further. Signing a discharge petition – regardless of the issue – gives the Democrats control over our agenda. That’s why they are so eager to sign it.

“Let the Democrats own corporate welfare all by themselves. Republicans should instead focus on reforms that will give every American greater opportunities to succeed. Fundamental tax reform, tort reform and regulatory reform will do more to grow our economy and help small business entrepreneurs than corporate welfare ever could. That must be our agenda.”

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