

October 26, 2015

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the members of Amcot, American Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA), National Cotton Council (NCC) and National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO), we strongly support Congressional efforts to reauthorize the Export – Import Bank (Ex-Im). The Ex-Im Bank is a critical financing tool for the U.S. cotton and textile industries, both of which are primarily reliant on the ability to export a majority of U.S. production. Over 80% of U.S. cotton fiber production is exported, and when combined with cotton products manufactured by the U.S. textile industry, approximately 95% of all U.S. cotton is exported in some form.

Three segments of the U.S. cotton industry primarily utilize the Ex-Im Bank – textile mills, marketing cooperatives, and merchants – as part of their export business.

In November 2012, the Ex-Im Bank issued a report requested by Congress that reviewed the support Ex-Im Bank provides to the U.S. textile industry. A summary of the report noted that:

“The Bank’s support for U.S. textile and apparel export is significant and growing. Over the past six years, Ex-Im has authorized \$480 million in financing to support U.S. exports in this industry. Ex-Im support grew by 220% over this period, reaching \$141 million in FY12. Ex-Im’s support for the textile and apparel industry supported an estimated 4,960 jobs in that year.

The majority of the Bank’s financing in this sector supports U.S. exports of textile components to foreign garment manufacturers, often based in Latin America. Many of these finishing firms in turn supply U.S. markets, forming a supply chain that is able to compete with low-cost Asian textile and apparel firms due to their proximity and the duty-free access to U.S. markets that many of these countries enjoy under Free Trade Agreements when they use U.S. or domestically produced inputs.”

As the House begins votes today on efforts to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank, we strongly urge you to vote in support of continuing the critical role of the Ex-Im Bank in the ability of U.S. companies to remain competitive relative to exports from other major cotton and textile producing countries.

Thank you for your consideration of our views, and if you have any questions or need any further information, please contact either Reece Langley (rlangley@cotton.org / 202-745-7805) or Sarah Pierce (spierce@ncto.org / 202-822-8026).

Sincerely,

Amcot
American Cotton Shippers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Textile Organizations