

Slaughter Brought Export-Import Bank Chairman to Rochester in March to Meet with Hundreds of Employers

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Rochester, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today said that the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank by the House of Representatives is welcome news for the companies in her district that have been helped by the Ex-Im Bank.

On March 9, [Slaughter brought the Chairman of the Export-Import Bank Fred Hochberg to Rochester](#) to give her constituents access to the knowledge and resources offered by Ex-Im Bank. More than 100 local employers took part in the forum where industry and government experts provided insight on how small business owners can boost sales and safeguard jobs by increasing their export opportunities.

"In Rochester, we know that the Import-Export Bank is a federal resource that helps us create jobs here at home. The reauthorization of Ex-Im Bank is good news for us and no one can speak to that better than my friends at Harris RF," said Slaughter. "I want to thank Chairman Fred Hochberg for joining me in Rochester in March and say once again how pleased I am to connect the employers in Western New York with the resources they need to start selling their goods and services around the world."

One of the success stories to come out of the day involves Harris RF Communications which, thanks to their meeting with Chairman Hochberg, was able to secure a contract with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

"The importance of the US Export-Import Bank to Harris cannot be overstated," said Marilynne Locke, Director of Trade Finance for Harris RF Communications. "The event hosted in Rochester by Congresswoman Slaughter enabled us to meet with Chairman Fred Hochberg in person and express to him and his team the importance of this transaction both to Harris and to

the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, resulting in a Final Commitment approval on May 3rd."

Locke recently took part in a testimonial for the Ex-Im Bank that appears on their website.

[Video of her statement is available here.](#)

Today the House reauthorized the Export-Import Bank for three years. The Senate is expected to move quickly to approve the three-year extension.

Ex-Im Bank is an independent federal agency that helps create and maintain U.S. jobs by filling gaps in private export financing at no cost to American taxpayers.

While in Rochester on March 9, Hochberg said,

"New York's export growth rate is at 18.79%, well above the national average at 15.6%. Rochester small businesses should be aware of the enormous opportunities that exist today in the international marketplace. Ex-Im Bank provides the financing tools and resources required by small business to expand sales overseas and improve their bottom line."

New York is one of the leading states in the country for Ex-Im small business financing. In Fiscal Year 2011 figures, over \$124 million in export credit was authorized to support sales by New York small businesses.

Slaughter has long fought for local manufacturers and the hundreds of people they employ.

Last week, Slaughter introduced legislation that [would eliminate U.S. trade tariffs for two raw materials](#), which would benefit local manufacturer Lonza (formerly Arch Chemicals) and the 158 employees who work at the local

Rochester facility.

Slaughter successfully included language in the National Defense Authorization Act to help ensure the Department of Defense radio procurement process is open to competition so that local manufacturer Harris RF has a fair shot to win the work.

Slaughter has joined forces with local manufacturer Hickey Freeman, to cut unfair wool tariffs, and has also helped local manufacturer Firth Rixson by successfully leading the effort to remove restrictions on importing titanium- a raw material integral to the company's aerospace work.

Slaughter is the author of the Reciprocal Market Access Act, a bill that [receives support from both the local business community and labor organizations](#)

. The legislation would change the process for negotiating and enforcing US free trade agreements, so that American manufacturers can combat unfair trade practices from foreign countries and competitors.

[To learn more about Slaughter's work on rebuilding Western New York manufacturing, click here](#) .

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