

JAY INSLEE  
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
Office of the Governor

September 9, 2015

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
U.S. Representative  
U.S. House of Representatives  
203 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
U.S. Representative  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1641 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives McMorris Rodgers and Newhouse:

I write in response to your letter dated August 26, 2015, in which you mention our state's international trade policies, proposals to fight carbon pollution, and two proposed coal terminals undergoing regulatory reviews in our state. I was disappointed but not surprised to see you echo climate deniers in arguing against action on carbon pollution. But I was surprised to see you express support for increasing international commerce as a priority, given that your party now controls both chambers of Congress and yet your House Republican caucus is blocking reauthorization of the U.S. Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank.

The shutdown of the Ex-Im Bank is already having a negative impact on Washington business. For example, the delivery of two Boeing 787s has been delayed because financing from the Ex-Im Bank is no longer available. Reauthorization of the bank is the single most important thing Congress can do to help Washington State businesses continue their success in the international economy.

The Ex-Im Bank provides support to hundreds of Washington businesses and tens of thousands of Washington jobs, in agriculture, manufacturing, winemaking and more, including in both of your districts. I have joined with governors of both parties to urge Congress to act, as have businesses here, along with the Association of Washington Business and other organizations. For them, and for me, this is a top priority because it will have immediate benefit for our businesses. From your refusal to even stand up for reauthorization of the bank, I was led to believe this wasn't a priority of yours.

On behalf of our state, I urge you to focus your energies on removing the roadblock that your caucus has needlessly placed in the way of the continued growth of Washington exports.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee  
Governor

