



Ex-Im Bank unfair

[“Reauthorize Ex-Im Bank”](#) (Sept. 10 Opinion) overstated the benefits of the Export-Import Bank for Kansans and neglected the considerable costs it imposes. Here are the facts:

The \$1 billion in exports and 6,000 jobs the bank claims to have stimulated in Kansas must be put into context. These jobs amount to only 0.05 percent of all state employment since 2007.

Similarly, Ex-Im backed only 1.65 percent of Kansas’ exports since 2007, and Ex-Im assistance to small businesses constitutes only 0.16 percent of the state’s exports.

Though Ex-Im’s benefits are tiny, the costs imposed on Kansans are considerable.

Economists at the Cato Institute calculate that nine of Kansas’ top 15 manufacturing industries are net victims of Ex-Im subsidies, including electrical equipment, chemicals, plastics and rubber products, and computer manufacturing. Nationwide, these subsidies impose \$2.8 billion in annual costs.

When the bank lowers one firm’s costs, others find it harder to access capital, expand sales and maintain employment.

Firms, workers and consumers involved in the more than 98 percent of unsubsidized Kansas exports should not be placed at a competitive disadvantage. Ending Ex-Im would restore fairness and competitiveness for all Kansans – not just those who have friends in high places.

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