

Business Conservatives Win Export-Import Bank Fight

By Ryan Teague Beckwith *May 9, 2012 – 3:58 p.m.*

Business conservatives won the Export-Import Bank fight.

A three-year renewal of the bank's charter heads to the House floor today with bipartisan backing and is expected to pass, CQ's Joseph J. Schatz <u>reports</u>.

That's despite the efforts of the Club for Growth, the Cato Institute and Heritage Action for America, which had argued that the bank distorts the market.

Instead of a routine reauthorization, the usually obscure export credit financing agency has provided an unlikely test of the House GOP leadership's ability to keep the majority caucus unified in the face of ideological division. That's because the bank's activities fall at the fault lines between the party's traditionalist wing and the staunchly conservative force that used tea party support to help the GOP reclaim a House majority in 2010.

Supporters of the bank, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said they were surprised by the criticism.