



USA Maritime Comments on U.S. Export-Import Bank Re-Chartering and Cargo Preference

WASHINGTON D.C. (April 15, 2011) – USA Maritime released the following statement regarding the re-chartering of the U.S. Export-Import Bank and cargo preference.

“USA Maritime wholeheartedly supports the re-chartering of the Ex-Im Bank and the retention of the existing cargo preference requirements.

Cargo preference is critical to the maintenance of our U.S. national defense sealift capability and any change in preference would harm that capability. Ex-Im Bank’s growth and expansion also has a direct and positive impact on U.S. seafaring and waterfront jobs.

Cargo preference requirements have worked very well over time, and USA Maritime’s members greatly value their partnerships with the export community. The U.S. Maritime Administration waiver process, when properly used by exporters, works extremely well in making sure that cargo preference and exports mutually benefit.

Members of USA Maritime have been advised by the Ex-Im Bank and others that the Secretary of Transportation and the Chairman of the Ex-Im Bank have had discussions regarding cargo preference. However, USA Maritime has not been brought into those discussions and is concerned, based on third party reports that the discussions may be based in part on misinformation about how cargo preference works.

USA Maritime believes that there should be a constructive and open dialogue on cargo preference as applied to Ex-Im Bank programs. USA Maritime looks forward to its discussions with both the Secretary of Transportation and the Ex-Im Bank to help ensure that decisions are made based on accurate information and all relevant policy considerations.”

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