James L. Henry
Chairman

November 12, 2019

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chairwoman
House Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Waters:

On behalf of the U.S.-flag shipping companies, American maritime labor organizations and related maritime associations belonging to the USA Maritime Coalition, we are writing to express our strong support for H.R. 4863, the United States Export Financing Agency Act of 2019. Members of the USA Maritime Coalition own and operate virtually all the United States-flag commercial vessels engaged in our nation's foreign trades, including those that transport export cargoes financed by the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

USA Maritime strongly supports the immediate re-chartering of the Export-Import Bank and the full resumption of the Bank's critically important export financing activities. USA Maritime members depend on the cargoes financed by the Export-Import Bank which are reserved by law to privately owned United States-flag commercial vessels. These vessels with their United States citizen crews are vital to our national security and have been determined by the Department of Defense to meet critical national defense commercial sealift readiness requirements. In fact, the privately-owned U.S.-flag merchant fleet and its civilian crews transported over 90 percent of the equipment and supplies needed to support our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Since 1934, the Export-Import Bank has provided direct loans, loan guarantees, working capital guarantees and credit insurance to enable foreign purchases of U.S.-made products. This not only boosts U.S. exports and supports our domestic manufacturing and maritime industries, but it also provides employment for hundreds of thousands of Americans including those working

aboard United States-flag commercial vessels. In short, the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank and the increase in its statutory lending authority as called for in H.R. 4863 represent smart and sound investment in America, including in our U.S.-flag fleet. We thank you and your colleagues for your continued support of the Export-Import Bank and its mission.

Sincerely,

American Maritime Congress
American Maritime Officers
American Maritime Officers Service
American Roll-on Roll-off Carrier, LLC
American President Lines LLC
Bold Ocean LLC
Farrell Lines, Inc.
Hapag-Lloyd USA LLC
International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
Keystone Shipping Company
Liberty Maritime Corporation
Maersk Line, Limited
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development
Sailors' Union of the Pacific
Seafarers International Union
Transportation Institute
US Ocean
Waterman Logistics