

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John J. Tharp, Jr., of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted “yea” and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) would have voted “nay.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 90 Ex.]

YEAS—86

Akaka	Gillibrand	Merkley
Alexander	Graham	Mikulski
Ayotte	Grassley	Murray
Barrasso	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Hatch	Portman
Begich	Heller	Pryor
Bennet	Hoeven	Reed
Bingaman	Hutchison	Reid
Blumenthal	Inhofe	Risch
Boozman	Inouye	Roberts
Boxer	Isakson	Rockefeller
Brown (MA)	Johanns	Rubio
Brown (OH)	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Cantwell	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Cardin	Kerry	Sessions
Carper	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Chambliss	Kohl	Shelby
Coats	Kyl	Snowe
Coburn	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cochran	Lautenberg	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Toomey
Conrad	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
Corker	Lugar	Vitter
Crapo	Manchin	Warner
Durbin	McCain	Webb
Enzi	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Feinstein	McConnell	Wyden
Franken	Menendez	

NAYS—1

Lee

NOT VOTING—13

Blunt	Cornyn	Kirk
Burr	DeMint	
Casey	Hagan	

Moran Nelson (FL) Thune
Murkowski Paul Wicker

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The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). The Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Ohio.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I rise to discuss the Export-Import Bank reauthorization’s importance to strengthen manufacturing and creating jobs in places such as my home State of Ohio.

Ohio is the third leading manufacturing State in the country. Only Texas, which has twice our population, and California, which has three times our population, produce more goods than we do.

The Export-Import Bank’s mission is simple: It facilitates exports and contributes to job creation in the United States. It does this through loans and guarantees of insurance, filling in gaps in trade financing at no ultimate cost to taxpayers. Yet, despite this record of success, exports and jobs are at stake because Congress cannot agree to Ex-Im reauthorization, in large part because there is a group of people in this body and down the hall in the House of Representatives who simply think the Federal Government should not have a role in much of anything.

The bank’s lending authority is set to expire May 31, 17 days from now. We must act. The Export-Import Bank has been reauthorized by both Chambers, by both parties, decade after decade, and we know how important it is for job creation, but it has taken too long to get this reauthorization moving. While manufacturers wait, Congress has stalled. We cannot wait any longer.

We know that Ohio workers can compete with anyone in the world when the playing field is level. When we stamp the “Made in Ohio” label, it is a sign that an item was made with pride by some of the finest workers in the United States and some of the finest workers in our country.

We know that U.S. manufacturing is getting stronger due in no small part to increased exports with the help of the Ex-Im Bank. Ohio has had quicker increases in job growth than other States.

We know that the manufacturing sector nationally has gained back some number of jobs that it lost. As an example, from 1965 to 1998 or 1999, this country had roughly the same number of manufacturing jobs. It was a smaller

percentage of GDP and a smaller percentage of the workforce but a pretty constant similar number of jobs in 1999 as we had in 1965. But in the decade after 1999, we lost between 3 and 4 million manufacturing jobs in this country.

Since 2010, almost every single month we have seen manufacturing jobs increase in Ohio, in the Presiding Officer’s home State of North Carolina, and in State after State in this country. That is good, obviously, but too many people in my State are still out of work or underemployed. What will happen to Ohio workers in our growing manufacturing sector if we fail to do what we should be doing here, if we fail to fund this critical resource?

Ohio’s manufacturers have been able to increase their exports with the assistance and the assurance that the Ex-Im Bank provides. In Fremont, OH, workers at Crown Battery, an employee-owned company, make renewable energy systems. With the help of the Ex-Im Bank’s short-term, multibuyer insurance policy, about \$400,000 worth of Crown Battery’s storage battery manufacturing equipment was exported to South Africa. Middletown Tube Works in Butler County in southwest Ohio exports tubular steel to Spain and Portugal with less risk because of the Ex-Im Bank. Before that support, Nook Industries in Cuyahoga County required international customers to pay cash in advance of every order, which is an average of 4- to 6-weeks. Now Nook Industries has major customers in places such as China, South Korea, and Israel because of Ex-Im Bank support.

Exporting is especially tough for small businesses. Large businesses need this less than the small company that makes things, that manufactures things. Less than 1 percent of the Nation’s nearly 26 million small businesses export their products. Imagine if we can increase that only a little bit in percentage terms.

One of the most important resources to help small and medium-sized businesses—especially those that make things—boost their exports is the Ex-Im Bank. That is why the Ohio Manufacturers Association strongly supports its reauthorization. They said:

The Ex-Im Bank is the only tool that American manufacturers have to counter the huge sums of export financing—many hundreds of millions of dollars—that other countries and other governments provide their exporters.

Tom Buffenbarger, president of the International Association of Machinists, told the Senate Banking Committee:

America’s working families struggle in today’s difficult economy [and] have little patience for Beltway politics that continue to stall a proven instrument of export growth and job creation.

I hear from the head of the Ohio Manufacturers Association and I hear from small business owners who want to expand and gain access to foreign