

This is a loss of real jobs. When people talk about what we are dealing with in our fiscal crisis—the fact that people are talking about shutting down Government—to me, if you want to be a good fiscal steward, then reinstitute the Export-Import Bank.

In 2014 alone, Export-Import Bank paid \$675 million into our Treasury. That is deficit reduction. In fact, in the previous 5 years, it had generated somewhere around \$5 billion in deficit reduction. Not only are we taking away a key tool, where are you going to plug the hole in our budget from the hundreds of millions of dollars this year—to say nothing of next year and the next year—that you don't have from killing the Export-Import Bank? People need to realize, these people—small businesses, big organizations seeking financing—have to pay a fee. That fee generates revenue. That revenue is used to pay down the Federal deficit. Not only do we create jobs and not only do we reach market access, we actually have a government program that is helping us pay down the Federal deficit.

Why would you not want to reinstitute that? The good news is that the Senate voted to do that. From what I hear, there are enough people in the House of Representatives. People have continued to hold this program hostage because people are anxious about the politics of the Heritage Foundation, the Koch brothers, or people sending out emails or challenging them when in reality you just need to stand up and speak for the fact that you want U.S. job creation, and you believe that U.S. manufacturers making and building a product and selling it overseas is a winning economic strategy for the United States of America. It is. To boot, it pays down the deficit. We know that American businesses are obviously working hard to try to communicate this. Everybody from the manufacturers association to individual workforce organizations is trying to express this. I know my colleague Senator HEITKAMP has been working very hard on this on the banking committee.

With just a short period of time left before whatever this proposal is to shut down the government, which I certainly don't support, we have to say to our colleagues that you either have to get this on the highway bill—which it is as part of a package that we passed out of the Senate—and get either the package that was passed here in the Senate passed by the House or come up with another vehicle that gets this done, as my colleague from Minnesota just suggested, on the continuing resolution or some other bill so that we actually know we are giving American businesses the opportunity to continue to compete.

I hope we will get a long-term solution here. The fact that we have sent this message around the United States and the world—that there is no longer financing available—has really hurt

our competitive opportunity at a time when America needs to embrace the fact that there is so much business in these developing middle-class markets around the globe.

You can sit here and trade away our opportunity to compete by saying I don't want U.S. job creation or deficit reduction. Instead, I want to ship jobs overseas. I don't get the strategy. I don't get what someone thinks is smart about allowing U.S. jobs to be shipped overseas just because they can't get financing here. If the market were willing to take those risks without some of the security put forth here, obviously people would want to see that. But that is not happening because if you are selling grain silos like we are to African nations, there is no bank there that is financing that deal. If you are selling product to Asian countries that are just developing, whether it is seafood or whether it is grain like Bob's Red Mill, they are not always able to get financing. This is a way for the United States to win. All we have to do is embrace this and make sure that we pass the Export-Import Bank as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, how much time is remaining in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democrats have 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Washington for taking the floor and supporting the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. She has been diligent in coming to Congress and explaining that this agency not only facilitates exports from the United States, which creates jobs and helps businesses here, but it also generates a surplus for the Treasury. What is wrong with that picture? Why would the Republicans be so opposed to an agency that helps American businesses, large and small, export more goods and doesn't cost the Federal Government any money? Why do they want to kill this agency? Why do they want to kill these jobs? I don't understand it.

We had a vote on the floor of the Senate a few weeks ago on the Transportation bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank and it passed. We sent it over to the House of Representatives which, sadly, has become the graveyard for big issues, important issues when it comes to the future of America. I hope it changes. I hope they will listen to business leaders—that Republicans in the House will listen to business leaders and not just Boeing aircraft. Of course I am interested in that. It is headquartered in Chicago and is a major employer in the United States, but large and small companies alike feel the same. Export-Import Bank gives our companies in America the ability to finance export deals so they can compete with other countries.

When we decide—or at least some in the Senate decide—to take the United States out of the export business, who

is going to step in? Who will take over and create the jobs? Sadly, our competitors, China. They are not waiting around for their legislature, whatever it may be, to give permission for them to dramatically increase exports. They are on the road to do that. I support what the Senator from Washington said.

NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on the floor we are going to return in a few minutes to the debate on the Iran agreement. This agreement, of course, has been in the works for a long time. President Obama set out to create a set of sanctions, punishment against Iran to force them to come to the table and to negotiate with us and other nations so they would not develop a nuclear weapon. The President invested a lot of capital in it, and it worked. Congress imposed sanctions. The President imposed sanctions.

The day came when the negotiations started, and we weren't sitting alone at the table. It is an amazing alliance of nations trying to stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. It included China, Russia, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and the European Union. They all joined us in the sanctions, and many others too. But they joined us at the negotiating table, and they worked with us until we reached an agreement. That agreement didn't rely on trusting the Iranians. No. It relied on inspectors, real inspectors from the United Nations who have a sterling reputation. It was those inspectors who warned us before we invaded Iraq that there were no weapons of mass destruction. The Bush-Cheney administration paid no attention. We paid a heavy price for that dereliction of duty.

Now these inspectors are in place—will be when this agreement moves forward. We can not only find out what is going on in Iran when it comes to nuclear weapons, we can make sure we discourage them from ever violating this treaty or agreement. Should they violate it, automatically the sanctions will snap back. In fact, it takes only the vote of the United States in the Security Council of the United Nations for all of the sanctions to come back on Iran if they break the treaty. Inspectors, snapback on sanctions, and I hope it results in what we want to see: No. 1, stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, and No. 2, avoid the United States from going to war again in the Middle East. Those are our two goals.

Those who oppose this agreement come to the floor and say: Stop it. Don't do it. Walk away from it. It is nothing but bad.

Every single Republican in the House and Senate—every single one of them—has come out against this agreement. Not one is supporting it. It shouldn't surprise us.

On March 9, 2015, 47 Republican Senators sent a letter to the Ayatollah Khamenei. Do you know what they

said? Don't negotiate with the United States of America. Don't negotiate with this President or other nations. Whatever you do is going to be subject to congressional review. There is no guarantee we will support it. Even if it is supported by Congress, there is no guarantee that any future President would enforce this agreement.

You may even hear it tonight in the Republican Presidential candidate debate. Isn't it interesting that this was the first time in the history of the United States, the very first time that a group of Senators intervened in a Presidential negotiation in national security—the first time that has ever happened. And 47 Republican Senators, including every Member of the leadership, signed that letter. What would happen if 47 Democrats had sent a letter to Saddam Hussein prior to the invasion of Iraq saying: Don't pay any attention to President Bush. What do you think the reaction of Vice President Cheney would have been? He would have had us all up on charges—treason. That is exactly what happened here. There was a letter from 47 Republican Senators saying: Don't negotiate with the United States. The President ignored it. The negotiations continued.

The agreement is before us. There was a key vote last week, a critical vote. Every single Member of the Senate has publicly declared where they stand on this agreement. After some 8 weeks of deliberation and debate, the vote took place last week, but it wasn't enough for Senator McCONNELL. He demanded that we replay the vote last night. We did, with the same result.

I don't know how many times he is going to bring this before us, but may I suggest to the Republican leader there are some items that he might consider moving to. We are 8 legislative days away from shutting down the Government of the United States. Should we be discussing that? Most Americans would say so. Most Americans think it is embarrassing that the U.S. Government would shut down because a willful group—a small minority—is determined to get that done. Too many people suffer when that happens. We have to do everything we can to keep this government open.

Let's get beyond this debate. We have already established what the vote is, and the Republicans didn't come up with the 60 votes necessary to move forward. That is the story. They don't like the ending, but that is the ending. Let's move forward in a responsible way to do two things—first, to make sure that Iran lives up to this agreement and do everything in our power to enforce it, and second, get on with the business of government. Let's fund this government. Let's not become a nation that people look at and say: Who is in charge here if a Republican Congress would shut down a government for a second time, as they did a couple of years ago? Who is in charge? Let's get into that issue and let's do it in a responsible and a bipartisan way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I rise to talk about something very important to small businesses in Missouri. Ironically, tonight there is going to be a debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. I hear a lot of talk from my friends on the other side of the aisle about small businesses, but here we are today confronting the failure and the job losses associated with our not embracing the Export-Import Bank. President Eisenhower, President Ford, President Reagan, President George Bush—both President George Bushes.

This was not controversial, and it is really easy to understand why. The Export-Import Bank has never been controversial. This is a credit agency. There are 60 other credit agencies around the world that support companies in their countries—60 around the world. It is not a level playing field in the global economy if America decides to no longer support our manufacturing economy and the small businesses associated with that by removing this important tool for exports. It is real jobs. This is not fairytale stuff, and this is not crony capitalism. This is an analysis of risks done by a credit agency and that credit agency, when it analyzes the risk, can keep track of it. We can figure out if in fact they are taking good risks or if in fact it is scratching somebody's back by virtue of the fact that \$7 billion has been put in our Treasury after the Bank has covered its expenses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). All time for morning business has expired.

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for a couple more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. McCASKILL. In 2014 this credit agency that all the other countries in the world have access to put \$674 million in the U.S. Treasury.

Let me count off here. It creates jobs, supports manufacturing, and adds money into our Treasury. What is the problem?

My staff and I have met with nearly 100 companies in Missouri, and 90 percent of Ex-Im's work directly supports small businesses. I will say that again: 90 percent supports small businesses.

I will give a couple of examples. There is a small company in Joplin, MO. These kids started it in their garage. They build skateboard parks. They now have a manufacturing facility, and they are manufacturing skateboard parks which are exported around the world. They can't go to their local community bank to help their customer in Indonesia. They need

what other countries have—a credit agency that analyzes risk on a global basis.

I toured a small Kansas City company now run by the third generation of the same family. They rely on Ex-Im Bank to help them manage their risk of extending credit in foreign markets. Sixty percent of their sales are exports. Do we want to shutter this company? Is that what we want to do? Do we want them to have to cut their employee base by 60 percent because they can no longer export?

There is a St. Louis company that makes cutting-edge play equipment for children and uses the insurance from Ex-Im Bank to work with customers in South America, Australia, and beyond. There is another small St. Louis manufacturer that was founded as a family-owned company in 1951 that sells electrical components to Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Thailand. They depend on Ex-Im Bank.

What is going on in this place? How has this become controversial? This was never been controversial, and there is one representative that is in a key position that is shutting this whole thing down. The American people ought to be outraged. We can vote on Iran as many times as you guys want us to if it makes everybody feel better. I have no problem with that. It was a tough decision for me. I made up my mind. But to be wasting time on political posturing when these jobs—and I have real examples of contracts that aren't going through now because Ex-Im is not there.

I plead with my friends on the other side of the aisle: Make time in your busy schedule of scoring political points on the Iranian agreement to reauthorize Export-Import Bank. Jobs in my State depend on it. Yes, we have unemployment down to 5 percent in this country, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't still focus on jobs every day in the Senate.

With that, I yield the floor and ask for the help of all my Republican colleagues to help us get Ex-Im Bank across the finish line so small businesses in this country do not suffer at the hands of global competition that figures out that this ought to be easy.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 61, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 61) amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration