

July 11, 2014

Dear Senator,

As the Export-Import Bank reauthorization decisions draw near and debates arise over the agency's financial actions, the below signed organizations urge you to oppose Senator Manchin's reauthorization proposal and others like it that would extend fossil fuel financing and end existing restrictions on new coal plant finance.

When the Export-Import Bank finances coal projects, negative impacts ensue. Climate disruption and its effects intensify, the local environment degrades, and developmental, health, and human rights impacts worsen. Increased funding for these coal projects undercuts the Obama Administration's ability to persuade other governments to end export credit agency and other public financing for coal projects, and it erodes foreign confidence that the United States will act on climate or follow the Administration's stated G20 goal of ending fossil fuel subsidies.

In recent years, the Export-Import Bank had dramatically increased financing for coal projects, but fortunately, the Bank's climate policy has begun to curb this harmful practice. However, if Congress slashes enforcement of this policy, it is expected that the Bank's coal subsidies will increase even more. Weakening this policy will also represent an enormous setback to the work the Administration is undertaking to act on climate and promote the end of coal and other fossil fuel subsidies in other nations. Should the Bank's climate policy be slashed, widespread negative ripple effects will be felt internationally.

In the past few years, the Export-Import Bank has funded a number of large-scale coal projects that have resulted in devastating impacts for the global climate as well as the local people. In October 2010, the Bank approved \$917 million for the Sasan 3,960 megawatt Ultra Mega Power Plant and associated mine in India. Just eight months later in May 2011, the Bank approved \$805 million for the even larger Kusile 4,800 megawatt power plant and mine in South Africa. These plants are more than eight times bigger than the average U.S. plant and are huge contributors to climate disruption and pollution.

Currently, the Export-Import Bank is considering yet another enormous coal plant in India, the 3,960 megawatt Ultra Mega Power Plant in Tilaiya. Although environmental and social impact assessments have not yet been released, reports abound that thousands of acres of land, including rich agricultural soil, would be affected and that thousands of households would be displaced. The coal plant would be harmful to the local citizens as well as the global environment, and the Export-Import Bank should not support this project with public funds.

With reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank on the horizon, our organizations strongly oppose the Bank's further worsening of climate disruption and the weakening of the Administration's foreign leverage for reductions of coal subsidies. Our organizations vehemently oppose Senator Manchin's proposal (and any similar proposal in the House) to weaken the existing climate policies and instead advocate for the elimination of fossil fuel and coal projects from the Export-Import Bank's repertoire in the coming reauthorization process.

Sincerely,

Sierra Club

Friends of the Earth

Greenpeace

Natural Resources Defense Council

U.S. Climate Plan

Center for Biological Diversity

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Oil Change International

International Rivers

Center for International Environmental Law

Earthjustice

Environment America

World Wildlife Fund