

May 26, 2021

Ms. Catherine Russell  
Director  
Office of Presidential Personnel

Cc: Gautam Raghavan  
Scott Nathan

Dear Ms. Russell,

The undersigned leaders of environmental organizations write in support of President Biden nominating John Stanton as Chairman of the Export-Import Bank (EXIM). Mr. Stanton has a strong background both in renewable energy and business development. Mr. Stanton has developed both of these important skills by serving on the executive team of the largest U.S. solar energy company (Tesla Energy/Solar City), the leadership team of the Solar Energy Industry Association, and currently on the leadership team at Faraday Grid Innovations. He has further demonstrated his commitment to protecting the environment through his work at the Environmental Protection Agency, National Environmental Trust (now the Pew Environment Group), and as CEO of the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure. Mr. Stanton also has an impressive background in the administrative, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

The Biden Harris Administration has placed mitigating climate change at the front and center of its foreign policy and overseas investment decisions. Mr. Stanton has the skills and experience needed to carry out that vision at EXIM. President Biden's [Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#) requires EXIM to "promote ending international financing of carbon-intensive fossil fuel-based energy." The [U.S. International Climate Finance Plan](#) calls for the US government to "spearhead efforts" to shift financing away from fossil fuel projects. EXIM leadership will be critical to the implementation of these plans. EXIM should put forward its policy to implement this executive order and immediately end all support for fossil fuels as was called for in a [letter signed by nearly 450 groups](#) from all around the world and encourage other OECD export credit agencies to do the same. Mr. Stanton as the head of EXIM would be well qualified to ensure that the agency prioritizes addressing the climate crisis just as President Biden has ordered.

EXIM financing decisions impact the environment and communities all over the world and the global climate. Since regaining authorization in 2019, EXIM has provided billions of dollars to fossil fuel projects. This financing includes \$4.7 billion for Mozambique LNG where Freedom of Information Act documents revealed that EXIM [ignored the risks](#) in deciding to approve support. Similar concerns regarding due diligence exist with EXIM's [deal with Greensill Capital](#) in support of Freeport LNG. In addition, since 2019 EXIM has provided \$400 million for [Pemex](#), nearly \$83 million for oil and gas equipment in Argentina, and over \$100 million for coal projects throughout the world. EXIM is [currently considering](#) supporting oil and gas development in Bahrain, an oil refinery in Kazakhstan, and a long list of environmentally destructive projects. Having strong environmental leadership at EXIM is critical to curbing support for these projects that are so harmful for the climate and local communities. Strong

leadership at EXIM will also pressure other countries to restrict their support for overseas fossil fuel projects.

We appreciate you considering our recommendation of Mr. Stanton for EXIM Chairman. With his strong leadership EXIM can steer a new course away from its history of providing billions of dollars annually for fossil fuel projects all over the world and towards a future that is good for both jobs and the environment.

Sincerely,

Leila Salazar-López  
Executive Director  
Amazon Watch

Elana Berger  
Executive Director  
Bank Information Center

Carroll Muffett  
President and CEO  
Center for International Environmental Law

Wenonah Hauter  
Executive Director and Founder  
Food & Water Watch

Erich Pica  
President  
Friends of the Earth United States

Annie Leonard  
Executive Director  
Greenpeace USA

Elizabeth Bast  
Executive Director  
Oil Change International

Ginger Cassady  
Executive Director  
Rainforest Action Network