

## Lieutenant Governor appointed to Export-Import Bank Advisory Committee

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OLYMPIA – Lt. Governor Denny Heck has been appointed to the Export-Import Bank of the United States' Advisory Committee. Established in 1934, the Congressionally-mandated Advisory Committee advises the Ex-Im Bank on its policies and programs, in particular on the extent to which the Bank provides competitive financing to support American jobs through export.

As one of the most trade-driven state in the country, one in three jobs in Washington state is tied to trade. The success of Washington's economy is built on our ability to capitalize on the increased expansion of U.S. trade and investments in the global marketplace. Ex-Im has been a direct conduit for small-and-medium sized businesses to access and benefit from the international market.

In recent years, EXIM has continued to build upon its connections with Washington state. In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, EXIM authorized a \$327 million loan guarantee in support of more than 1,300 U.S. jobs that were hard-hit in the aviation sector. EXIM also provided an avenue for local small businesses, like the Manhasset Specialty Company based out of Yakima and others across our state, to access a global market and exponentially increase sales.

Members were appointed to the Advisory Committee after an open nomination process that considered the mandates required for Advisory Committee representation and the candidate's experiences and qualifications. The Advisory Committee represents an array of

sectors and stakeholder groups, including small business, environment, production, commerce, finance, agriculture, labor, services, state government, and the textile industry.

The most recent member of the Advisory committee from Washington state was former Governor Christine Gregoire who was first appointed to the committee in 2013 and served as chair for the committee in 2015. Lieutenant Governor Heck will be replacing incumbent state government representative for the council and former U.S. Congressman of New Mexico Stevan Pearce.

Lee Stewart, Director of External Engagement for EXIM said, “given Lieutenant Governor Heck’s extensive knowledge of export credit policy, passion for supporting Washington and U.S. exporters, and advocacy for EXIM reauthorization during his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, we believe Lieutenant Governor Heck would be an ideal leader of the Advisory Committee under the Biden-Harris Administration.”

The advisory committee meets four times yearly to examine EXIM’s programs and make recommendations for enhancing service and value for EXIM customers.

“It’s an honor to be able to continue to advocate for Washington jobs and Washington business through the highly successful organization like the EXIM Bank. I am firm in the belief that Washington workers whose jobs depend on export also depend on financing for provided by EXIM. These jobs – the engines of families and communities across our state – can be the center of positive impact generations to come, and I am excited to play a role in that impact.”

Lieutenant Governor Heck is the 17<sup>th</sup> Lt. Governor Washington state. As Lieutenant Governor, he is the presiding officer for the Washington State Senate, serves as Acting Governor whenever Governor Inslee is out of the state. In addition to these constitutional duties, the Lieutenant Governor is designated other duties in state law like serving as the chair for the Legislative Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

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