

Fred P. Hochberg: Let me just say a comment while the secretary is in earshot. Earlier this morning Andrew Liveris asked a question whether I was the best chairman and he said, "Yes." Then he said, "Of course I've never met any other ones." I have met many, many other Secretaries of Commerce and there is no question but Penny Prtizker is our best Secretary of Commerce, so thank you, Penny.

Doug has been a keen observer of trade for a long time so it was great that he was with us today as well. Yesterday, I said that was the last time I was going to address you but clearly that was not true because I'm standing here again. What I really would like to do right now is just actually offer a number of thank yous to our speakers, production team. I really want to single out, in particular, our communications team.

Everybody worked hard, panelists, policy people, logistics, but in particular, I think we have a picture of our ... There we go. Can I ask them to stand up as well? Those who are still in the ... There's one standing by the door. I see a few in that corner there. Let's not be shy. Come on, let's stand up. Thank you.

I hope that you got a chance to meet members of our business development teams, underwriting teams, and hopefully got some transactions started, met some new business people. We also have a large group of people back at the bank still working on transactions, working to get transactions done. It was an exceedingly productive week both here and at the office. There's one other person I want to thank personally, and probably embarrass her a little bit. That is our Chief Banking Officer, Claudia Slacik. Claudia and I met three years ago. She joined EXIM Bank, and this is not cause and effect, but she joined the bank and the government shut down within days. I don't think that was a cause and effect but it did shut down within days. Claudia has been our Chief Banking Officer, has been at my side and a senior part of our management team, has done a spectacular job realigning our export finance group, re-energizing and giving great new direction for our small business team, which now has a target. Maybe it was all that work she did to re-energize that gave Congress the idea they should just up the target a little bit. She has put in place a much more rigorous transaction review process so that when transactions go through the bank and they get to the board, they've gone through a much more thorough vetting and background check and review and underwriting. She has improved our customer service enormously. She has helped get the word out, both here in this country and around the world, about EXIM Bank and how we participate, supporting American exports and American jobs. She has improved our risk management.

She's been ... Personally become a very, very close friend. People say the way you get to know someone in life is either by marrying them or working with them. She's already married so I can't do that, and there'd be other complications as well, but we'll leave it at that. By getting to work together, as well as having a great colleague I have a lifelong friend. I also would like to acknowledge Susan Davis, her spouse, who has been so generous to lend us Claudia for months and months and months, well beyond Claudia's initial plan to stay with us for two years. Let's give a round of applause for Susan. Let's give Claudia a round of applause as well. Claudia, just in case ...

An announcement just went out to our staff just before lunch. Madolyn Phillips, who is sitting here in red so you can see her, Madolyn, please stand, will be our acting Chief Banking Officer. She has been with the bank, this round, for a little over a year, was actually at MCC, the

Millennium Challenge Corporation, and actually at Bank about a decade ago, also at the SBA, so she brings enormous experience. That's why she's wearing red, because I told her she needed very broad shoulders in order to do this job.

Let me also acknowledge, I wanted to do this separately from yesterday, is our advisory committee. We have an advisory committee. I think we have about four or five members still here today. Our advisory committee is mandated by Congress and reviews how competitive we are versus the other eighty-five export credit agencies around the world. Governor Gregoire has been our chair. Is Governor Gregoire still here? She may have ... Okay. Let me just say I met Governor Gregoire, former governor of the state of Washington. When I asked her to become chair I said, "Can you please stay chair of the advisory committee through reauthorization?" We both learned something. It was never date certain, so since the reauthorization took an extra year and a half, I got almost two full extra years of her chairmanship. She thought she'd be done in '14. She didn't get done until '15. She'll stay our chair until September of this year. She has done a spectacular job. We have seventeen members from around the country, many of which are here. We've had over seventy members of the business and nonprofit and NGO, an environmental community, serving in total over these last nine years. They have been enormously helpful in keeping us focused and providing an unvarnished view to Congress, and importantly have been great ambassadors and emissaries as they're much more knowledgeable about EXIM Bank. I really want to thank ... Let's give our advisory committee a round of applause as well.

In my recent travels, I was in London and we met with some bankers. One of the bankers said to me and I thought it so much had to do with our work that we've done and what we have ahead of us. He said, "Throughout history, and particularly in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, what toppled governments, what toppled rulers was hunger and famine. In the twenty-first century it's going to be jobs." I thought that was a very insightful thought on what's going on. When I have traveled and met with government leaders, prime ministers, presidents of different countries, they are keenly focused, as our president is, on jobs, making sure people have family-sustaining jobs because that's not just about putting food on the table, it's about self-respect. It's about dignity. It's about having a sense of self. That is going to be key. Frankly, all of you in your work as you export and build things overseas, all of the team at EXIM Bank and I'm actually looking at our award winner, Agro Vision, you are having an impact on people's jobs and lives in those countries in a direct way just as you are in our own country here.

I think we heard that loud and clear from many of our speakers. Larry Summers, in light of all of the other provocative things he said, he did say we have to remember, we have to look at all these trade deals, look at all of our policies through the eyes of workers. That's how we'll make sure we do the right thing. In that light, we've actually added, the US economy has added two million jobs in the last five months. That is more jobs in five months than in any other time in this century. We're on the fastest trajectory right now for adding jobs in our country. I hope I leave you with this, that you will keep the thoughts of this conference with you, both from the point of view of seeking out new deals, doing more exports, and also making sure we keep this dialogue about trade,

about exports and the jobs it supports uppermost in your mind as you go home and you travel home from here.

We will have a conference next year. We have dates, April 6 and 7, 2017. You'll have plenty of time to mark that on your calendar, but with that, thank you all for joining us this year. Thank you for your attention and most importantly, go forth and create a lot of new jobs and a lot of new exports. Thank you very much for joining us.