

Unknow Male Speaker - Ladies and Gentlemen please turn your attention to the podium and welcome The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp, Former United States Senator, Founder, One Country Project, and Chair, EXIM Advisory Committee.

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp, Former United States Senator, Founder, One Country Project, and Chair, EXIM Advisory Committee - It's not going to take me that long to walk out doesn't take me that long to walk five feet and I know I limp a little um.. Thank you all for hanging with us on a Friday afternoon which is really rare for a DC conference to see this kind of um excitement and attention and I just want all of you to give a round of applause to the wonderful sponsors that have helped us put on this event it helps us keep the price down but it also Al I think elevates the understanding of so many corporations and uh investment firms and people who really understand the American economy um you might wonder how uh former senator from North Dakota ended up uh chairing your Advisory Board and just to give you a little background when I came to the United States Senate I came with a pretty strong sense of how important uh imports and exports were to the American economy um you can't be from a commodity based State not understand that not understand what the dollar value does but also understand that if we're going to grow the American economy we have to grow our manufacturing base and we have to Market our products whether they be Commodities or things that we generate or our services we have to Market those overseas I remind people all the time that we are a country of 330 million people and if we're not exporting we do not have an economic future and so what happens in this room and what happens at the EXIM bank is so critically important not just to what you do every day making your companies profitable making your organizations tick and Thrive and building out that kind of um uh attitude that yes we can do it we can actually um uh access markets that we thought were closed out to us but the EXIM bank is a critical part of our national security apparatus because if we do not have economic soft power we will not be successful going into the future and so we have to have a strong EXIM bank now I'm going to take off my you know speaking on behalf of the chair um today and I'm going to put on my advisory uh committee hat um how I ended up getting very involved in the bank is I was the ranking member and at one point the chair of the subcommittee in banking that dealt with the EXIM bank and that was during the time period when we shut the bank down and you know and I know that the bank has never fully recovered from that we are the numbers are good we're moving in the right direction but we can't afford another shutdown of the EXIM Bank in fact we have to grow the bank we have to grow what the bank can do and we have to have that available and that Outreach that is absolutely essential into States like North Dakota into Idaho all across this wonderful country and so um if you find that the bank is absolutely essential to the work that you do you think it's important um if you know your Congressman write them a note telling them you've been to the EXIM Bank uh

annual conference and uh you're excited about the work that we're doing but you're excited to continue to see the bank Thrive and be able to grow it is absolutely they can hear from all the politicians in the world they can hear from all of the kind of economists and bankers in the world but hearing from that small business that completely um is able to grow their business because they've grown their exports because we've provided that support that is gold that is uh political gold and so uh do us a favor um uh fill out your uh evaluation forms and tell us what we can do better but equally important um tell your Ed Representatives whether it's your Governor your uh Senator your Congressman how important the Bank of North or how that too see how important the EXIM bank is to um your business growth and so thank you so much and have enjoy the rest of the program it's going to be a great program and I know exactly why you stuck with us on a Friday afternoon because you looked and you said this is this is going to be an exciting uh last session for the EXIM Bank annual conference thank you so much for giving me a fewminutes.