

Now please welcome to the podium The Honorable Jose W. Fernandez, United Secretary State excuse me under, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, U.S. Department of State.

The Honorable Jose W. Fernandez, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, U.S. Department of State - Thank you thank you it's good to be here I don't know if I just got a promotion or a demotion but uh I'll take it um I'm really grateful to my friend Reta Jo Lewis uh for inviting me to speak on US economic diplomacy it's actually the third uh time in in less than a week that I've met with Reta Jo and some uh some really fabulous work that we're both trying to do uh both in the US and abroad first uh the first uh last week actually we were in London together earlier this week we went to the Senate together and now we're here so it's uh I'm really grateful for the partnership that she shown uh and I'm also um grateful for the leadership that EXIM has shown and also its professional staff sometimes we don't really talk about the people that make things uh happen and that's the professional step uh that work with all of us they're all excellent partners on our top state department priorities both here in Washington and uh with our economic and Commercial service officers around the world ex's role facilitating US exports and supporting us jobs makes the agency a key player in our economic diplomacy for instance EXIM last year last fiscal year supported 35,000 us jobs and the return in the last 20 years or so 25 years uh it's returned close to 8 billion in earnings to the US Treasury uh actually since 1992 so we're talking about a an agency that both makes money for the US taxpayer and also creates good jobs here at home what I'd like to do this afternoon is to highlight a few ways that EXIM has advanced the interest of us workers and businesses and how EXIM and the state department work together to harness the power of the private sector of the people in this audience to create sustainable economic growth at home and overseas let's start uh with critical minerals critical minerals have become uh an item that we all talk about critical minerals are essential to achieve our clean energy goals just to give you one example uh the International Energy agency tells us that we will need 42 times the amount of lithium that we use today by 2050 if we are going to achieve our clean energy goals and in this space in many other uh spaces the Biden Administration has looked for partners and allies to navigate the complexities of the global economic competition the mineral security partnership or the MSP which I lead enhances the resilience and security of Supply chains that are vital to the development of Clean Energy Technologies of electric vehicle batteries to name but one uh it's a partnership made up of 13 countries plus uh the European Union we comprise over 50% uh of the world's GDP in order to combine forces to find minerals Finance Min minerals invest minerals and to do it all following the highest and adhering to the highest environmental social and governance standards EXIM financing and EXIM expertise have supported the US participation in the production processing and recycling of

critical minerals uh EXIM support of us exporters enables private sector Investments to build more transparent predictable secure and sustainable critical mineral Supply chains and our combined efforts will reduce if we are successful and we have to be successful our combined efforts will reduce dependence and ensure a stable supply of vital resources in the clean energy transition not just lithium but manganese graphite and many other critical minerals and so I was grateful for chair Lewis's participation at the MSP ministerial that we uh held last week in London which I was uh honored to co-chair with my UK counterpart where we discussed how to strengthen collaboration between the MSP and the Global Financial Community we also announced four projects we've been in business for about a year and we were already we were already able to announce four projects that we had helped put together around the world in both recycling processing and then Mining and we very much in this journey and this very essential Journey we've welcomed EXIM's commitment to supporting projects in the critical mineral sector including through its co-financing arrangement with the Republic of Korea the second thing I'd like to talk about is the chips the chips and science act through the inflation reduction Act and the chips and science act the Biden Administration is significantly investing in research and development realizing that technology and Innovation play a pivotal role in this strategic competition in the chips act the Congress established the international technology and security innovation fund YY for short which provided \$500 million to the state department over five years to provide technical assistance promote collaboration facilitate investment in the semiconductor supply chain and find ways to among other things to help train the workforce that we will need in order to Nearshore a number of our chips here at home our work supports partner countries in building up their capabilities and addressing concentration in the industry and we've already uh we've already announced several Partnerships on this this initiative and stay tuned we expect many more Partnerships in the chips side of things uh using the our ITC funds in this area in the chips area EXIM is also leading as you heard this morning the make more in America initiative advances sectors critical to National Security by focusing on transformational export areas including semiconductors to revitalize American manufacturing improve the resilience of our supply chains and level the field for us companies of course EXIM uh impact goes beyond the technology space to many different aspects of the US economy in the agricultural sector for example EXIM's provision of export credit guarantees working capital loan guarantees and other tools has helped support more than 5 billion dollars in agricultural exports the agency has also succeeded recently in using loan guarantees to support us locomotive exports in Kazakhstan in Cameroon and in several other countries the third item that I'd like to talk about is the work that we've been doing on helping partner countries resist economic coercion lately uh from the PRC from the People's Republic of China we've seen the PRC try to punish Japan Korea the Philippines Australia and several other countries for actions that it has taken in in in

that that that that PRC does not like we have we don't stand idly uh in the face of such practices uh lately uh the lately the latest example was Lithuania and here EXIM was critical in in in the success of our work working together with EXIM and our allies uh when Lithuania faced retaliation for opening a Taiwan representative office the US provided concrete support by helping to find new markets for Lithuanian goods and developing an arrangement between EXIM and Lithuania to facilitate the procurement uh a procurement mechanism capable of providing up to \$600 million of us goods and services for the Lithuanian Market in a small country like Lithuania the ability to take to use to be able to use \$600 million do uh in in in in in export credits is something that was critical it was important and with our help Lithuania was able to successfully redirect its trade flows from China and as a result right now its global trade has actually improved uh they no longer look back at this scenario and think and question whether they did the right thing they followed their principles and with the help of EXIM Bank they were able to succeed EXIM's um support of us technology is vital to this anti-corruption toolkit that we've developed through CET CTE the China and transformational exports program EXIM supports US exports and provides foreign buyers a choice between uh based on life cycle costs quality of goods and security interest this is more and many of you know this the many we our companies succeed often when the when the terms of a tender go beyond simply price if we can incorporate other criteria such as the life cycle cost quality of goods uh and the like our companies succeed and again in this effort EXIM is critical under CP EXIM has helped Partners meet their climate commitments we very much applaud EXIM's approval of more than \$900 million of a \$900 million direct loan to Angola for two solar energy plants supporting US exports of solar panel equipment while diversifying the global supply chain of photo voltaic energy away from the PRC the last thing I'll talk about is Ukraine uh which is on our minds um day and night uh so let me just say a few words about our steadfast commitment to Ukraine and the important role that us companies at you can and will play in the development of Ukraine's economy and I'm glad that you heard from Ambassador Markarova this morning in the early months of the war efforts focused on our end on helping Ukraine survive against Russia's latest aggression now we're equally working to ensure that Ukraine thrives as a prosperous independent country and this long-term effort cannot wait until Victory this longterm effort must begin now even the midst ongoing fighting while Ukraine's economy suffers con constant disruption uh as you've heard from Ambassador Markarova business is happening business is happening in Ukraine right now and entrepreneurs remain active I know I've been there I've traveled to K and I've seen companies uh like McDonald's uh financial institutions like City Bank thriving doing well in in Ukraine today and at the same time reminding Ukraine that they're not alone EXIM is in active discussions with Ukrainian Ministries as a country Works to defend its sovereignty and rebuild its economy with support from EXIM us companies will be critical players in

helping Ukraine recover and rebuild this will not be easy but us firms with their technology and their way of doing business can generate reforms and create a better investment and business climate for in Ukraine so um I encourage you I I'd like you to take this back and I very much encourage you to look uh at Ukraine to also explore ways that your business can invest in Ukraine and that you can support Ukraine's recover and in that effort you will have an ally in the state department thank you again in closing thank you again Reta Jo for inviting me to share our economic diplomacy efforts and kudos for your team for organizing a great conference uh I just met Mariano Rivera in in in the back and as a Yankee fan you know that my day is made uh together we can leverage our economic tools to level the playing field for us companies while Foster in a more prosperous and secure world for all have a great conference and thank you.