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November 13, 2019

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we write to urge you to oppose H.R. 4863, the United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019, when it is considered on the House floor this week. Loans from the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) have supported fossil-fuel and other extractive projects that have caused substantial damage to World Heritage sites including the Great Barrier Reef, polluted the environment of indigenous communities, harmed human health, contributed to armed conflict and human rights abuse, and worsened corruption in developing nations.

Simply put, the Ex-Im Bank has not lived up to the ideals and principles that our nation cherishes. The Bank's environmental impacts are now global, and its disproportionate financial support of fossil-fuel projects will continue to exacerbate the damage from climate change, harming every American now and into the future. As an institution that is wholly funded by the American people, the Ex-Im Bank should comply with both the letter and spirit of all U.S. laws. Unfortunately, H.R. 4863 continues to allow the Bank to ignore most environmental laws in its operation, undermining environmental justice and equity around the world.

In addition, H.R. 4863 does not require Ex-Im Bank to fully comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Instead H.R. 4863 would provide only modest opportunities to provide public input on potential Ex-Im funded projects, and would only allow for corrective action to be taken after environmental damage has already occurred. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned that the world only has ten years to stop catastrophic climate change. As written, H.R. 4863 would simply give the Ex-Im Bank a free pass to ignore climate change during this next pivotal ten-year period.

Unfortunately, H.R. 4863 allows Ex-Im Bank to continue its business-as-usual approach in the coming decade, it will continue to harm the environment at home and abroad and will diminish the United States' reputation and leadership abroad. We therefore urge you to oppose its reauthorization to prevent the Bank from harming the livelihood of people and the environment around the world.

Sincerely,

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