

said? Don't negotiate with the United States of America. Don't negotiate with this President or other nations. Whatever you do is going to be subject to congressional review. There is no guarantee we will support it. Even if it is supported by Congress, there is no guarantee that any future President would enforce this agreement.

You may even hear it tonight in the Republican Presidential candidate debate. Isn't it interesting that this was the first time in the history of the United States, the very first time that a group of Senators intervened in a Presidential negotiation in national security—the first time that has ever happened. And 47 Republican Senators, including every Member of the leadership, signed that letter. What would happen if 47 Democrats had sent a letter to Saddam Hussein prior to the invasion of Iraq saying: Don't pay any attention to President Bush. What do you think the reaction of Vice President Cheney would have been? He would have had us all up on charges—treason. That is exactly what happened here. There was a letter from 47 Republican Senators saying: Don't negotiate with the United States. The President ignored it. The negotiations continued.

The agreement is before us. There was a key vote last week, a critical vote. Every single Member of the Senate has publicly declared where they stand on this agreement. After some 8 weeks of deliberation and debate, the vote took place last week, but it wasn't enough for Senator McCONNELL. He demanded that we replay the vote last night. We did, with the same result.

I don't know how many times he is going to bring this before us, but may I suggest to the Republican leader there are some items that he might consider moving to. We are 8 legislative days away from shutting down the Government of the United States. Should we be discussing that? Most Americans would say so. Most Americans think it is embarrassing that the U.S. Government would shut down because a willful group—a small minority—is determined to get that done. Too many people suffer when that happens. We have to do everything we can to keep this government open.

Let's get beyond this debate. We have already established what the vote is, and the Republicans didn't come up with the 60 votes necessary to move forward. That is the story. They don't like the ending, but that is the ending. Let's move forward in a responsible way to do two things—first, to make sure that Iran lives up to this agreement and do everything in our power to enforce it, and second, get on with the business of government. Let's fund this government. Let's not become a nation that people look at and say: Who is in charge here if a Republican Congress would shut down a government for a second time, as they did a couple of years ago? Who is in charge? Let's get into that issue and let's do it in a responsible and a bipartisan way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I rise to talk about something very important to small businesses in Missouri. Ironically, tonight there is going to be a debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. I hear a lot of talk from my friends on the other side of the aisle about small businesses, but here we are today confronting the failure and the job losses associated with our not embracing the Export-Import Bank. President Eisenhower, President Ford, President Reagan, President George Bush—both President George Bushes.

This was not controversial, and it is really easy to understand why. The Export-Import Bank has never been controversial. This is a credit agency. There are 60 other credit agencies around the world that support companies in their countries—60 around the world. It is not a level playing field in the global economy if America decides to no longer support our manufacturing economy and the small businesses associated with that by removing this important tool for exports. It is real jobs. This is not fairytale stuff, and this is not crony capitalism. This is an analysis of risks done by a credit agency and that credit agency, when it analyzes the risk, can keep track of it. We can figure out if in fact they are taking good risks or if in fact it is scratching somebody's back by virtue of the fact that \$7 billion has been put in our Treasury after the Bank has covered its expenses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). All time for morning business has expired.

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for a couple more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. McCASKILL. In 2014 this credit agency that all the other countries in the world have access to put \$674 million in the U.S. Treasury.

Let me count off here. It creates jobs, supports manufacturing, and adds money into our Treasury. What is the problem?

My staff and I have met with nearly 100 companies in Missouri, and 90 percent of Ex-Im's work directly supports small businesses. I will say that again: 90 percent supports small businesses.

I will give a couple of examples. There is a small company in Joplin, MO. These kids started it in their garage. They build skateboard parks. They now have a manufacturing facility, and they are manufacturing skateboard parks which are exported around the world. They can't go to their local community bank to help their customer in Indonesia. They need

what other countries have—a credit agency that analyzes risk on a global basis.

I toured a small Kansas City company now run by the third generation of the same family. They rely on Ex-Im Bank to help them manage their risk of extending credit in foreign markets. Sixty percent of their sales are exports. Do we want to shutter this company? Is that what we want to do? Do we want them to have to cut their employee base by 60 percent because they can no longer export?

There is a St. Louis company that makes cutting-edge play equipment for children and uses the insurance from Ex-Im Bank to work with customers in South America, Australia, and beyond. There is another small St. Louis manufacturer that was founded as a family-owned company in 1951 that sells electrical components to Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Thailand. They depend on Ex-Im Bank.

What is going on in this place? How has this become controversial? This was never been controversial, and there is one representative that is in a key position that is shutting this whole thing down. The American people ought to be outraged. We can vote on Iran as many times as you guys want us to if it makes everybody feel better. I have no problem with that. It was a tough decision for me. I made up my mind. But to be wasting time on political posturing when these jobs—and I have real examples of contracts that aren't going through now because Ex-Im is not there.

I plead with my friends on the other side of the aisle: Make time in your busy schedule of scoring political points on the Iranian agreement to reauthorize Export-Import Bank. Jobs in my State depend on it. Yes, we have unemployment down to 5 percent in this country, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't still focus on jobs every day in the Senate.

With that, I yield the floor and ask for the help of all my Republican colleagues to help us get Ex-Im Bank across the finish line so small businesses in this country do not suffer at the hands of global competition that figures out that this ought to be easy.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 61, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 61) amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration