

HR 1103

Increasing American Jobs Through Greater Exports to Africa Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Foreign Trade and International Finance

Introduced: Feb 26, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade. (Mar 27, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1103>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Feb 26, 2015
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Mar 19, 2015
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Mar 19, 2015
Rep. Emmer, Tom [R-MN-6]	R · MN		Mar 19, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 26, 2015
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 20, 2015
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 20, 2015
Small Business Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 26, 2015
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 27, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Foreign Trade and International Finance

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Increasing American Jobs Through Greater Exports to Africa Act of 2015

Directs the President to establish a comprehensive U.S. strategy for public and private investment, trade, and development in Africa (including the Republic of South Sudan) that focuses, among other things, on: (1) increasing exports of U.S. goods and services to Africa by 200% in real dollar value within 10 years, (2) promoting the alignment of U.S. commercial interests with development priorities in Africa, (3) improving the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in Africa, (4) encouraging a greater understanding among U.S. business and financial communities of the opportunities Africa holds for U.S. exports, and (5) fostering partnership opportunities between U.S. and African small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Requires the President to designate a Special Africa Export Strategy Coordinator.

Expresses the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Commerce and other high-level U.S. officials with responsibility for export promotion, financing, and development should conduct a joint trade mission to Africa.

Directs the Secretary to ensure that at least 10 total U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service officers are assigned to U.S. embassies in Africa for each of the first 5 fiscal years after enactment of this Act.

Requires the Secretary to assign at least one full-time officer to the office of the U.S. Executive Director at the World Bank and the African Development Bank to: (1) increase access of U.S. businesses to procurement contracts with the bank; and (2) facilitate access of such businesses to risk insurance, equity investments, consulting services, and lending provided by the bank.

Prescribes increases in the number of: (1) Export-Import Bank of the United States employees dedicated to expanding business development for Africa and assigned to bank field offices in Africa and the United States, and (2) Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) staff needed to promote stable and sustainable economic growth and development in Africa as well as to help U.S. businesses to expand into African markets.

Directs the President to develop a plan for standardized training of all U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service officers, Department of State economic officers, and U.S. Agency for International Development economic officers with respect to Bank, OPIC, Small Business Administration, and U.S. Trade and Development Agency programs and procedures.

Expresses the sense of Congress that foreign export credit agencies are providing non-Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) arrangement compliant financing in Africa that is trade distorting and threatens U.S. jobs.

Amends the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 to direct the Bank to increase the amount of loans, guarantees, and insurance for projects in Africa. Requires the Bank to report annually to Congress if it has not used at least 10% of such loans, guarantees, and insurance for projects in Africa.

Directs the Bank to make Bank capitalization available annually for loans that counter trade distorting non-OECD arrangement compliant financing or preferential, tied aid, or other related non-market loans offered by other nations for which U.S. companies are also competing or interested in competing.

Amends the Small Business Act to require the Associate Administrator of Small Business for International Trade to work closely with the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, among others, in maintaining a trade distribution network.

Directs the President to explore opportunities to negotiate bilateral, subregional, and regional agreements to encourage trade and eliminate nontariff barriers to trade between countries (including Africa), such as negotiating investor friendly double-taxation treaties and investment promotion agreements.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 27, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.
- **Mar 20, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.
- **Mar 20, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.
- **Feb 26, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 26, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Small Business, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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