

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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November 12, 2024

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

It has come to our attention that The U.S. Treasury Department may not be in compliance with statutory requirements to oppose projects seeking economic assistance before international monetary institutions that pose direct competition to American industries. To ensure these policies are followed, we request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) review whether the Treasury Department has met its obligations under this statute.

The U.S. Treasury Department, under 22 U.S.C. § 262h, should “...use the voice and vote of the United States to oppose any assistance by such institutions, using funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to any provision of law, for the production or extraction of any commodity or mineral for export, if- such commodity or mineral, as the case may be, is in surplus on world markets; and the export of such commodity or mineral, as the case may be, would cause substantial injury to the United States producers of the same, similar, or competing commodity or mineral.” This role is crucial to ensure American tax dollars are not used to undermine American industries in international economic decisions while representing the United States on global financial boards like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

However, an initial examination of voting records since 2004 reveals that U.S. directors have supported projects 25,041 times (88.7%), abstained 2,325 times (8.2%), and opposed only 880 projects (3.1%).¹ Notably, since 2006, U.S. directors have either supported or abstained from voting at least 17 times on projects involving industries that directly compete with the U.S. shrimp industry—an industry facing severe challenges due to foreign shrimp dumping.² These findings raise concerns that the Treasury Department may not fully comply with this statute and, in some cases, has voted to support industries that directly compete with American businesses. To ensure adherence to 22 U.S.C. § 262h, we request that the U.S. Government Accountability

¹ <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/international/multilateral-development-banks/loan-review-votes>

² <https://www.npr.org/2023/07/31/1191164602/demand-for-cheap-shrimp-is-driving-u-s-shrimpers-out-of-business>

Office (GAO) conduct an independent review of the Treasury Department's obligations under this statute and submit a written report to Congress detailing the following:

1. The extent to which U.S. Executive Directors at International Monetary Institutions—such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and other entities identified in section 22 of the Export-Import Bank Act Amendments of 1986—have adhered to the instructions mandated by 22 U.S.C. § 262h.
2. An assessment of whether current voting behaviors align with statutory requirements, particularly regarding projects that may contribute to global excess production of commodities that directly compete with U.S. industries, such as shrimp farming.
3. An analysis of the Treasury Department's internal oversight mechanisms to ensure consistent compliance with 22 U.S.C. § 262h across all relevant projects.

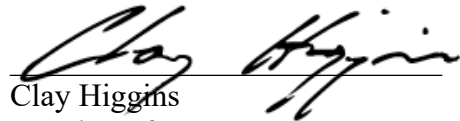
For any follow-up or related questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee in the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability