

Discharge Petition in the House Forces Vote on Ex-Im Bank, Although Future in the Senate Remains Uncertain

What is a Discharge Petition?



A Discharge Petition is a rare maneuver that allows an absolute majority of the House of Representatives (218 members) to force a bill from committee to the floor for consideration, even if the leadership is opposed. If successful, the petition discharges the bill without a report from the committee.

What does this mean for Ex-Im Bank?



The bill to revive the Ex-Im Bank has been stuck in the Financial Services Committee because Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) was part of a group of House conservatives who opposed the bank's revival.

Led by Stephen Fincher (R-TN), the House signed a discharge petition, which passed 246-177. The successful petition set up a vote to extend the Ex-Im Bank's charter, which passed the House by an even greater margin, 313 to 118.

Will the Ex-Im Charter be Revived?



While the vote to revive the Ex-Im Bank is received a great majority in the House, its future in the Senate is uncertain. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has said he will not spend legislative time on a bill he does not support. The most commonly proposed solution has been to attach the bank to the must-pass Highway Trust Fund, which is set to expire on October 29th