

Raymond V. Gilmartin
Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer



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Mr. James A. Harmon
Chairman and President
Export-Import Bank of the United States
811 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20571

Dear Jim:

Congratulations on the bold and creative initiative that you and your colleagues at the Export-Import Bank have undertaken to finance \$1 billion per year in exports of medical supplies, medicines, and services to help countries in sub-Saharan Africa in their fight against HIV/AIDS. Your new program will certainly help African countries to respond to the AIDS epidemic in a more sustained fashion, by making it possible for them to marshal additional resources for needed public health interventions.

I was particularly encouraged to learn that you are already advocating that your counterparts in other export credit agencies among the G8 follow the Administration's lead. This is just the kind of leadership and new thinking that's required to mount a more effective global response to the challenge of HIV/AIDS.

I well remember our initial conversation at Davos on this subject, and I'm delighted to see that you and your team at Ex-Im were able to move so quickly since our more recent discussion here at Whitehouse Station from words to action. I know that Linda Distlerath and Jeffrey Sturchio enjoyed working with Gloria Cabe as your thinking developed, and we were pleased to be able to participate in your announcement last week. You can count on Merck's continued cooperation as the countries involved begin to explore concrete responses to your new lending program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Raymond V. Gilmartin".