

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 25, 2019

The Honorable Kimberly Reed  
President and Chairman  
Export-Import Bank of the United States  
811 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20571

Dear Chairman Reed:

We write to express our concerns regarding the tremendous environmental and societal risks associated with Anadarko Petroleum Corporation's proposed liquefied natural gas project in Northern Mozambique. Anadarko has submitted an application to the Export-Import Bank (EXIM) for a \$5 billion direct loan to finance the development and construction of this project, and we understand the project will come up for a vote on Thursday, September 26.

We applaud the signing of a peace accord between President Filipe Nyusi and Renamo leader Ossufo Momade in August 2019, and believe it is critical that Mozambique benefit from sustainable development that paves the way for a durable peace. However, this project poses an enormous threat to the global climate, surrounding ecosystem, and local communities, and we urge the Board to reject Anadarko Petroleum Corporation's application.

This project is unacceptable for a wide variety of reasons. First, natural gas development in Mozambique would be devastating for the climate and is impossible to reconcile with the globally accepted goal of keeping warming below 2 degrees Celsius, if not 1.5 degrees. Due to lifecycle methane leakage and the energy required to properly store and transport the fuel, liquid natural gas has an enormous climate footprint, with nearly double the estimated greenhouse gas emissions compared to average pipeline supply chains. In fact, due to these emissions, liquid natural gas is, in some cases, considered a worse energy source than coal.

Second, this project also threatens unique ecosystems and endangered species. Encompassing approximately 350 square kilometers on the northern coast of Mozambique, the project puts mangrove forests, coral reefs, and other vulnerable habitats in jeopardy. The near and offshore areas of the project include sei whales, Indian yellow nosed albatross, and leatherback and hawksbill turtles, all of which are considered imperiled. Habitat degradation, noise, and ship strikes will likely force species to leave the area, and the traffic to and from the extraction wells and the processing plant will put the wildlife at further risk.

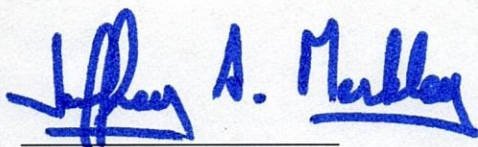


Finally, aside from its environmental impacts, this project would also have detrimental impacts on local communities. Many families have already been forcibly displaced by land grabs orchestrated through misleading contracts with little monetary compensation. As a result, these communities are losing the sources of income they depend on, such as fishing, small-scale agriculture, and tourism. With the majority of jobs going to outside workers, this project will likely lead to conflict between locals and outsiders, as well as an increased strain on healthcare and water resources.


It is also worth noting that this project will do little to address the urgent need for electricity access for Mozambicans. Mozambique does not have the infrastructure in place to use natural gas for domestic needs, with no plan to build out the pipeline and distribution network necessary to utilize this project's natural gas for local purposes. Much of the natural gas has already been contracted for export to Asia and other foreign markets.

Given these considerable risks and the EXIM's support for clean technology in the past, we strongly urge the Board to reject Anadarko Petroleum Corporation's application. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your prompt response.

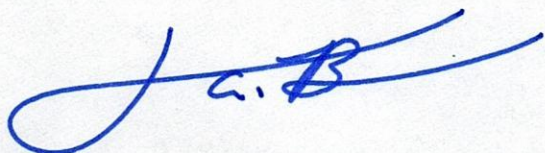
Sincerely,



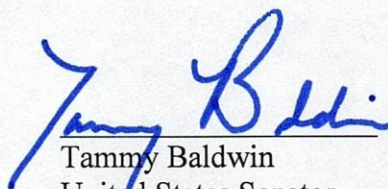
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator