

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 20, 2017

Secretary Lisa R. Barton
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20436

Dear Secretary Barton:

As a Senator representing North Carolina, I wanted to outline for the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) the great clean energy story that has taken place in our state. I believe that highlighting solar energy's success in North Carolina would be useful as the pending Section 201 trade petition is before the ITC.

As of the end of 2016, North Carolina was ranked second in the nation in installed solar, with a total of 3,287.5 MW installed. There are approximately 248 solar companies operating in the state supporting over 7,000 jobs, with investment totaling over \$5 billion since the industry took off in 2010.

This expansion of solar capacity has been fueled by the decrease in cost of solar cells, allowing for large utility scale projects to proliferate across North Carolina. Additional projects are already in the pipeline, with a nearly 100 percent increase in solar capacity projected over the next five years. The success of solar energy in the state and the projected growth in the future will only continue if there is certainty in the supply chain. As the Commission proceeds with the pending petition, I believe it is important that any analysis of the potential effects fully take into account how solar energy components are currently procured and whether sufficient manufacturing capacity exists to meet future demand if the current supply chain is disrupted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard Burr
United States Senator