

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2017

Honorable Rhonda K. Schmidlein
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Schmidlein:

We write to join our House and Senate colleagues to express concern with the pending Section 201 global safeguard case regarding solar cell and module manufacturing in the United States. As you know, the petition requests that the President impose a 40 cents per watt tariff on imported solar cells and a 78 cents per watt floor price for imported solar modules. As part of the United States International Trade Commission's (Commission) investigation, we urge you to carefully consider the negative impacts the proposed trade remedies would have on the entire American solar industry.

Last year, solar was the single largest source of new electric generating capacity in America. At the end of 2016, 9,000 companies employed more than 260,000 American workers with a median wage of \$25/hour. We are concerned that the requested trade protection would sharply increase the price of solar panels, which could lead to a negative impact across the entire solar industry. The increased costs could slow or even stop the growth of this industry, jeopardizing billions of dollars of investment in communities across the country. Moreover, it is projected that the new tariffs could lead to a loss of 88,000 American solar jobs next year.


According to the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, solar accounts for sixty-three percent of the 28,769 renewable energy jobs in our state. The best estimates from the Solar Energy Industry Association indicate that the proposed tariffs would potentially lead to a loss of 1,300 jobs in Massachusetts.

On behalf of the Commonwealth, we respectfully request that the Commission carefully and fully consider the negative impacts that the high tariffs and minimum prices requested may have on our solar industry and its workers.

Sincerely,



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress