

August 11, 2017

The Honorable Lisa R. Barton
Secretary
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Secretary Barton,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Petition for Global Safeguard Relief Pursuant to Sections 201-202 of the Trade Act of 1974 – Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells and Modules (the “Petition”).

Arcadia Power is providing this comment to voice our **strong opposition** to the Petition brought forward by Suniva, Inc. (“Suniva”) and SolarWorld Americas Inc. (“SolarWorld”) (collectively, the “Petitioners”) to the International Trade Commission (the “Commission”).

Arcadia Power is a renewable energy software and technology company headquartered in Washington, DC, with 36 full-time employees, serving more than 30,000 customers nationwide. A strong and growing domestic U.S. solar industry is vital to our business, our employees, and our customers. Arcadia Power’s proprietary software powers the first nationwide community solar program, known as the Portable Panel®, which permits customers in all 50 states to remotely subscribe to and benefit from the production of domestic U.S. solar electricity. In recognition of this innovation, made possible by America’s strong, domestic solar industry, Arcadia Power’s Portable Panel® product was named a finalist for Fast Company’s *World Changing Ideas of 2017* award. The Portable Panel® relies on a thriving domestic solar industry, comprised primarily of small- to mid-sized companies involved in manufacturing, engineering, construction, and other services that create jobs and economic opportunity across the domestic solar industry.

The Section 201 trade law is an important component of U.S. trade law, but these Petitioners do not merit the trade protections provided under this provision. The petitioners’ proposed tariffs and price floors would cause severe harm to the United States solar industry by causing job losses across the United States, particularly among small and medium sized manufacturers.

Suniva, a company that has declared bankruptcy and is owned by Shunfeng International, headquartered in China, and SolarWorld, a company whose German parent company SolarWorld AG has filed for bankruptcy, are makers of solar cells and modules that are struggling to stay afloat. These two companies are seeking government protection through filing the Petition. If Suniva and SolarWorld can claim Section 201 protections to keep their struggling companies afloat, then the bar for future trade cases would be dangerously low for any American manufacturers in similar circumstances.

As significant, the proposed remedies will significantly harm American manufacturers of solar parts and panels. The Petition seeks a tariff of 40 cents per watt on all foreign-made solar cells, with a floor price of 78 cents per watt on all panels made with foreign inputs. According to Wall Street analysts, the proposed remedies would double the price of solar panels in the U.S. The cost of starting a project in the U.S. would rise dramatically, slashing demand for solar projects and harming solar energy’s position in the U.S. electricity market.

Both the size and scope of these tariffs will affect U.S. solar manufacturers. The U.S. solar industry employs roughly 260,000 workers, more than 38,000 of whom manufacture a wide range of solar



components, such as racking systems and inverters. In contrast, Suniva employed only 260 workers when it declared bankruptcy. This trade petition threatens to cut off the cells and modules that form the basic ingredients for the entire solar supply chain ecosystem, placing those 260,000 U.S. jobs at risk.

Solar energy is one of the most promising sectors in the American economy, providing good jobs and valuable products at low cost to consumers. The industry is valued at \$23 billion and was the top source of new U.S. electricity generation in 2016. Last year, the solar industry created 51,000 jobs, approximately one in every 50 new jobs created in the United States. Imposing tariffs on such a rapidly growing industry that can compete both domestically and globally would constrain America's technological and economic prowess.

We hope the ITC will take these facts into account and end this Section 201 investigation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Joel Gamoran, Director of Community Solar, Arcadia Power.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Gamoran", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joel Gamoran
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