



State of North Carolina Utilities Commission

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September 15, 2017

The Honorable Rhonda K. Schmidtlein
ATTN: Lisa Barton, Secretary
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Re: Investigation TA-201-75

Dear Chairman Schmidtlein:

As a public service commissioner from a state with a growing reliance on solar energy, I am deeply concerned about the harmful impact that could result from the pending Section 201 global safeguard case regarding solar cell and module manufacturing in the United States. The petition seeks to impose high tariffs on imported solar cells and high minimum prices for imported solar modules. I respectfully request that the U.S. International Trade Commission carefully consider how the proposed trade remedies may stifle the continued growth of the American solar industry, reduce access to clean and efficient solar power, and increase the costs American customers will pay for electricity.

Solar companies in my state believe the requested trade protection would double the price of solar panels. Such increasing costs could deter the growth of solar generation. In cases where regulated utilities continue to construct or contract for solar projects to meet state policy and regulatory requirements, higher costs will be borne by customers. GTM Research estimates the proposed tariffs would cut the demand for solar projects in half over the next five years.

As a regulator working to protect the public interest and to ensure safe, reliable and affordable sources of electricity, I urge the Commission to carefully weigh the likely harm that may result to energy customers from increasing the costs of solar inputs across the country, as well as the harm to hundreds of companies and utilities and the tens of thousands of workers who provide this important supply of energy across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Edward S. Finley, Jr.", is positioned above the typed name.

Edward S. Finley, Jr.
Chairman, North Carolina Utilities Commission