

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 5, 2017

Re: Petition for Global Safeguard Relief Pursuant to Section 201-202
of the Trade Act of 1974 – Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells and Modules

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
U.S. Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

We are writing to express our concern with the pending Section 201 global safeguard case regarding solar cell and module manufacturing in the U.S. The petition requests that the President impose high tariffs on imported solar cells and high minimum prices for imported solar modules. As part of the Trump Administration's deliberations regarding this trade case, we urge you to carefully consider the negative impacts the proposed trade remedies would have on the entire American solar industry, including solar manufacturing.

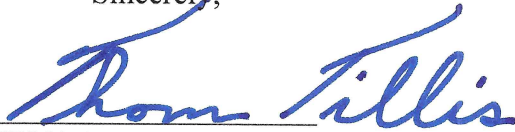
We strongly support the President's goal of strengthening American manufacturing, and are concerned that imposing the requested trade protections on the solar industry will hinder that objective. On August 11, 2017, sixteen senators wrote the Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), Rhonda Schmidlein, to emphasize our concerns. Though the ITC's proposed trade remedies are slightly less arduous than those requested by the petitioners, their implementation would cause irreparable damage to our domestic solar industry.

The petitioners claim that these proposed global safeguard remedies will boost domestic solar manufacturing, but we are concerned that the opposite is true. It is estimated that their requested trade protections would double the price of solar panels – stopping solar growth dead in its tracks and endangering the jobs of tens of thousands of American workers in the solar industry. Even ITC's less draconian recommendations could jeopardize billions of dollars in investment in communities across the country, including in our home states. We are ultimately concerned that the potential for solar industry growth in investments, installations, and jobs will be in danger if the federal government causes solar prices to spike significantly as a result of this trade case.

Again, we respectfully request that the Administration carefully and fully consider the negative impacts that could result from imposing the high tariffs and minimum prices requested by petitioners or the restrictive remedies recommended by three ITC commissioners.

Hon. Robert Lighthizer
December 5, 2017
Page 2

Sincerely,



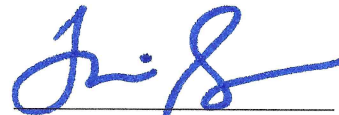
THOM TILLIS
United States Senator



RICHARD BURR
United States Senator



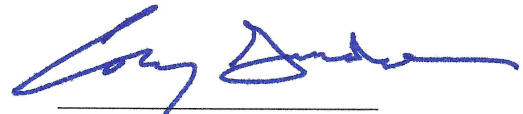
LINDSEY O. GRAHAM
United States Senator



TIM SCOTT
United States Senator



JERRY MORAN
United States Senator



CORY GARDNER
United States Senator

cc: Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross
Secretary of the Treasury Stephen Mnuchin
Director of National Economic Council Gary Cohn