

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

August 17, 2017

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

Re: Investigation TA-201-75

Dear Chairman Schmidlein:


We write in regards to the Section 201 investigation on imports of solar cells and modules that is being conducted by the United States International Trade Commission (ITC). A global surge of imports has jeopardized the survival of the high-tech U.S. solar manufacturing industry, and we believe that the evidence presented, including with respect to producers in our state, supports a positive finding of injury. Should the ITC concur, we support the recommendation by the ITC of appropriate remedies.

Despite two successful U.S. antidumping and anti-subsidy trade cases, more than 30 U.S. solar manufacturing companies have been forced to close since 2010 due to global overcapacity and exports from countries such as China, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, and others. Surging imports and massive overproduction have led to the near destruction of the remaining solar producers in America. Thousands of high-paying, high-tech manufacturing jobs have been lost, severely impacting families, communities and our future technology leadership.


While solar demand in the United States is growing, and many sectors of the U.S. solar industry are flourishing, it is clear that the U.S. solar manufacturing industry has been decimated due to surging imports. We believe that this is not the time to give up on the technology leadership, R&D, and jobs that come with manufacturing here in America. In order to have a strong solar industry, we need to have a strong solar manufacturing industry as well. The Section 201 investigation will address unfair competition, surging imports, and global overcapacity, and could save a vital part of our technological knowhow and leadership in an industry that was pioneered on U.S. soil since the 1970s.

For all these reasons, we urge you to carefully evaluate the evidence submitted in this investigation demonstrating that a surge of global imports is a substantial cause of serious injury to the U.S. solar manufacturing industry. Should the ITC make an affirmative finding, we support recommending a remedy that will save and strengthen this important American manufacturing industry.

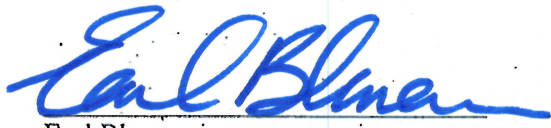
Sincerely,



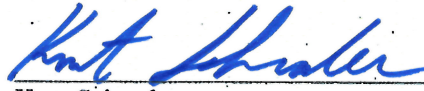
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



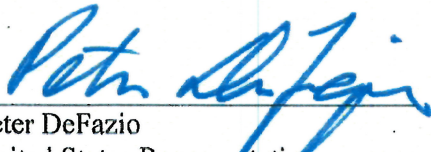
Suzanne Bonamici
United States Representative



Earl Blumenauer
United States Representative



Kurt Schrader
United States Representative



Peter DeFazio
United States Representative