

COMMITTEES
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4005

December 4, 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 Amb. 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 steep 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, but we are concerned that imposing trade protection on the solar industry would hinder that objective. It is estimated that the requested trade protection would double the price of solar panels, and increasing costs will stop solar growth dead in its tracks, endangering the jobs of tens of thousands of American workers in the solar industry. The petitioners claim that these proposed global safeguard remedies will boost domestic solar manufacturing, but we are concerned that the opposite could be true. GTM Research estimates that the proposed tariffs would cut in half the demand for solar projects in the United States over the next five years. The jobs of the 38,000 Americans currently working in all aspects of solar manufacturing would be at risk, as well as billions of dollars in investment in communities across the country. In total, it is estimated that over 84,000 American solar jobs could be lost by 2020.

The solar industry is booming in our congressional districts and across the country as a whole. Last year, solar was the single largest source of new electric generating capacity in America. At the end of 2016, 9,000 solar companies employed over 260,000 American workers with a median wage of \$25/hour, and one out of every 50 new jobs added by our economy in 2016 was a solar job. Moreover, we understand that \$22.8 billion was invested in the solar industry in 2016

alone, with an additional \$84 billion projected to be invested between 2017 and 2021. However, all of this tremendous growth in investments, installations, and jobs will be placed in danger if the federal government causes solar prices to spike significantly as a result of the trade case.

Again, we respectfully request that the Administration carefully and fully consider the negative impact that the high tariffs and minimum prices requested would have on the tens of thousands of solar workers in our states and on the hundreds of companies that employ them.

Sincerely,



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Mark Sanford
Member of Congress



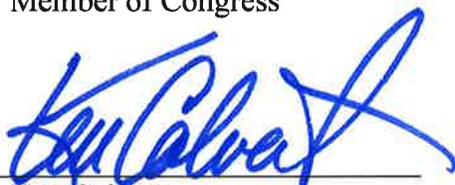
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Member of Congress



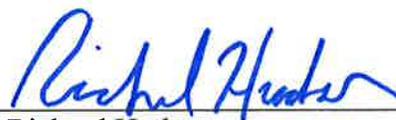
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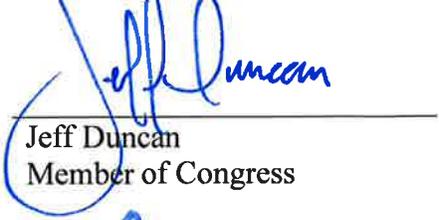
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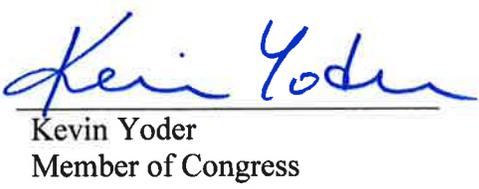

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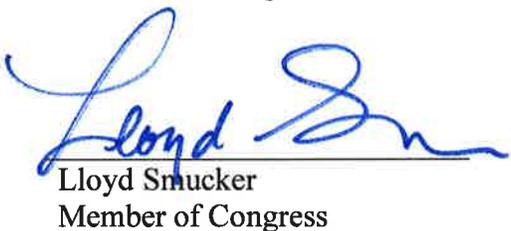

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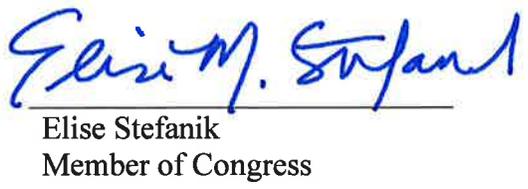

Martha McSally
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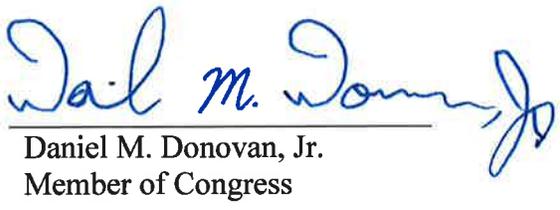

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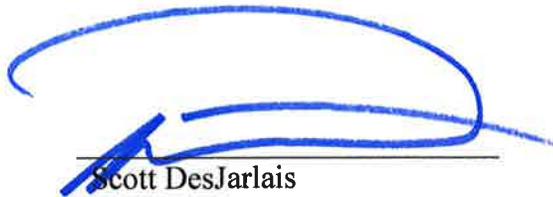
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cc: Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross
Secretary of the Treasury Stephen Mnuchin
Director of National Economic Council Gary Cohn