



# SENATE OF PUERTO RICO

EDUARDO A. BHATIA  
POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY MINORITY LEADER

October 19, 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:

As a current Puerto Rican Senator, former President of the Puerto Rican Senate, and a dedicated renewable energy advocate, I am writing to express my deep concern with the pending Section 201 global safeguard case regarding solar cell and module manufacturing in the United States. 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 U.S. International Trade Commission's investigation, I respectfully request that you carefully consider the negative impacts the proposed trade remedies would have on the entire American solar industry and Puerto Rico's efforts to rebuild with clean energy first after hurricanes destroyed our already unstable electricity grid.

Energy has always been a top priority for me. In 2013, I created Puerto Rico's first ever energy committee. A year later, in 2014, I introduced and passed comprehensive energy reform legislation, (Law 57), reforming the commonwealth's electricity sector and creating the first ever Puerto Rican Energy Commission. The commission is the first commonwealth body to regulate the local energy company with a mandate to expedite a move to renewable sources. The commission approves wholesale and retail rates, sets efficiency and interconnection standards, and oversees the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority's compliance with Puerto Rico's 2010 renewable portfolio standard. My goal has been to bring low-cost, reliable clean energy from clean sources to better diversify and stabilize our energy mix.

Hurricane Maria destroyed my homeland, leaving us virtually 100% without power. The entire grid was destroyed. From this devastation, Puerto Rico has an opportunity to rebuild with clean

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energy resources like solar. Our island should be embracing this abundant, low-cost energy source. Embracing solar would also create good quality jobs for people and communities that desperately need them.

I am concerned that the requested trade protection would sharply increase the price of solar panels, which would lead to a negative impact across the entire solar industry and could make it too expensive to rebuild Puerto Rico with this technology. The increased costs could jeopardize the potential for millions of dollars in investment in communities across Puerto Rico.

I respectfully request that the Commission carefully and fully consider the negative impact that the high tariffs and minimum prices requested would have on solar access in Puerto Rico and across the United States.

Sincerely,



EDUARDO BHATIA

Puerto Rico Senator At Large