

United States Senate

October 23, 2017

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

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

Dear Commissioner Schmittlein:

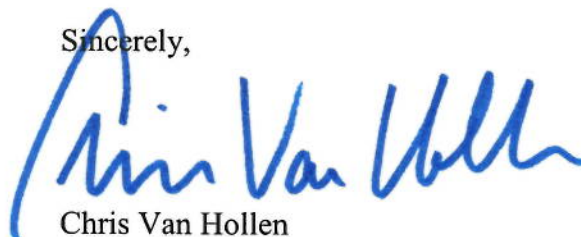
I am writing to express my concern with the pending Section 201 case before the International Trade Commission (ITC) regarding solar cell and module manufacturing in the U.S. The petition requests that the President impose very high tariffs on imported solar cells and high minimum prices for imported solar modules. As part of the Administration's deliberations regarding this trade case, I urge you to carefully consider the negative impacts the proposed trade remedies would have on the entire American solar industry, including solar manufacturing.

I understand that the ITC will be making a decision regarding its recent injury determination. As you make this important decision, I ask that you consider the potential impacts to American jobs, including in my home state of Maryland. If the proposed remedies are put in place the jobs of the 38,000 Americans currently working in all aspects of solar manufacturing are at risk, jeopardizing 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, and GTM Research estimates that the proposed high tariffs would cut in half the demand for solar projects in the United States over the next five years.

In Maryland, we have 719.9 MW of solar installed, leading to 5,429 Marylanders employed by the solar industry. Maryland stands to lose 2,500 solar jobs in 2018—nearly half of our total solar jobs in the state—if tariff recommendations to the ITC are adopted in full.

Again, I respectfully request that you carefully and fully consider the negative impact that the higher tariffs and minimum prices requested would have on the solar workers in my state and on the companies which employ them.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator