

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 22, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write today, as members of the Senate Finance Committee, to request that you revise your recent decision to impose a 30 percent tariff on imported solar panels and solar cells. We appreciate your efforts to expand employment and jump-start our economy and believe lifting the tariff is necessary to protect American workers.

The U.S. solar industry employs 250,000 Americans in high paying jobs, including installers, small business owners, and managers. The average solar installer earns \$21 per hour, including new solar markets growing across Ohio, Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The U.S. solar industry anticipated employing nearly 300,000 American's in 2020, prior to the announcement of the tariffs, providing new employment opportunities for our constituents. However, we are concerned the 30 percent tariff will undermine these job opportunities.

The proclamation you signed on January 23, 2018, imposing the solar tariffs included a provision that allows you to make a determination to "reduce, modify, or terminate" the solar tariffs. We urge you to use this unique opportunity to lift the solar tariffs, in order to allow hundreds of millions of dollars of U.S. energy infrastructure projects to be built.

The solar industry estimates the 30 percent tariff will result in a loss of 23,000 U.S. solar jobs in 2018. By contrast, a selection of the projects that could be built if the tariffs are removed include:

- Three solar projects in Colorado, including a 6 megawatt project in the Front Range, a 4 megawatt project in the Western Slope, and 150 megawatts of projects from a separate developer that would create 450 jobs and represent \$160 million in investment.
- Solar installations totaling more than 100 megawatts across South Carolina, powering approximately 15,000 homes.
- \$125 million in solar projects in Texas that would create 350 jobs.
- \$500 million in solar project investments by a Minnesota business, estimated to create 1,500 jobs.
- \$20 million in solar project investments by a Missouri business.
- Unlocking \$20 million of solar development across the U.S., which a California developer put on hold.

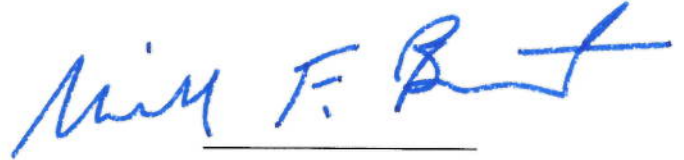
- A least three solar companies in Maryland that are holding back development of tens of megawatts of projects.

These are just a few examples of the construction projects and American jobs you will save by lifting the solar tariffs. We urge you to make the right choice for the thousands of workers in the U.S. solar industry that will benefit from lifting the solar tariffs.

Sincerely,



Tim E. Scott
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator