



10 August 2017

Honorable Lisa R. Barton
Secretary
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW, Rm. 112A
Washington, DC 20436

Re: Section 201 Petition on Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells and Modules

Dear Secretary Barton:

On behalf of the Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA), we write today to express our strong opposition to the solar trade case pending before the International Trade Commission (Petition for Global Safeguard Relief Pursuant to Section 201-202 of the Trade Act of 1974 – Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells and Modules). We are deeply concerned with the devastating impacts this trade case could have on the growing solar industry in our state along with the potential loss of thousands of Oregon solar jobs.

OSEIA represents solar businesses and industry in the state. We have over 100 members across the solar industry, including installers, developers, manufacturers, distributors, educational institutions and nonprofits. These members employ over 4,000 solar workers and that number is growing every year.

The petitioning companies are requesting that the federal government impose tariffs on imported solar cells and establish minimum prices on imported solar panels in order to protect domestic manufacturing. OSEIA believes that if these actions are taken, the price of solar panels into the US market will double. Currently, improvements in technology and a global market are enabling much lower costs, which is making solar very competitive as an energy resource. Setting artificially high minimum prices is the wrong solution to protect jobs. Increasing costs will stop solar growth dead in its tracks, endangering tens of thousands of American workers in the solar industry and jeopardizing billions of dollars in investment in communities across the country, including Oregon.

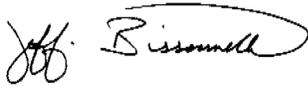
Oregon is ranked 13th in the country for solar jobs. Oregon also has a substantial solar manufacturing sector. We strongly support that sector but we do not see any long-term sustainable benefit to the Oregon or US solar industry from the petition or the proposed remedies. Instead, we must find alternatives to support US solar manufacturing while still making our products globally competitive.

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Finally, if the investigation proceeds to the consideration of a remedy, the negative impact that the proposed tariffs and minimum prices would have on the thousands of solar workers in Oregon and on the companies that employ them should be carefully and thoughtfully considered. The Oregon and U.S. government should focus its efforts to assist the solar industry on growing American solar manufacturing and installation jobs through other, more targeted means. We would be happy to discuss what this could look like.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Bissonnette". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jeff Bissonnette
Executive Director