

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Howard W. Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

We write to support the Department of Commerce's ongoing Section 232 investigation into Chinese polysilicon imports. We urge that, as part of this investigation, you consider the impact of Chinese polysilicon on the whole of the American solar energy industry, and the impact that America's solar energy industry has on domestic polysilicon production. The health of America's domestic polysilicon and solar manufacturing capabilities, with thousands of possible good-paying jobs on the line, and our country's energy and national security is at stake.

Solar panels were invented in the United States, but Chinese oversupply flooded the domestic market in the early 2010s, causing American factories that once supported thousands of good-paying jobs to shutter. The first Trump administration recognized the importance of this industry to the American economy and provided job-saving support by imposing Section 201 tariffs on solar products. Unfortunately, the Section 201 tariffs expired on February 7, 2026, and cannot be extended. The current Section 232 investigation provides an essential tool to build on that momentum and confront the very real, continued threat of unfairly traded goods and their negative impact on U.S. manufacturing, American jobs, and our energy independence and security.

China's dominance of the global solar industry has been deliberate, coordinated, and unchecked. Polysilicon is essential to the manufacturing of solar energy products, and Chinese firms, propped up by massive state subsidies and operating under conditions of forced labor and weak environmental oversight, have flooded the world with polysilicon at prices far below the minimum sustainable level. Producing semiconductor-grade polysilicon economically relies on the high-volume manufacturing of solar-grade polysilicon. This high-volume production of solar-grade polysilicon is crucial for achieving the necessary economies of scale to effectively remove impurities for semiconductor-grade material and to maintain high-capacity

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utilization in capital-intensive manufacturing facilities. The vast majority of polysilicon is consumed by the solar market, which means that all major polysilicon producers rely on solar manufacturers as their customers.

China's intentional distortion of the polysilicon market has enabled it to achieve significant control in solar energy product manufacturing, which it now exports at artificially low prices that no market-based producer can match. These panels often arrive in the United States through third countries - through Southeast Asia and increasingly the Middle East and Africa - exploiting loopholes to evade existing trade laws.

Protecting domestic polysilicon production while still allowing Chinese solar components to displace U.S. solar wafer, cell and module manufacturers would leave our nation dangerously dependent and vulnerable to coercion from this foreign adversary. Failing to take sufficient trade actions to protect U.S. solar wafer, cell and module manufacturers could leave U.S. polysilicon manufacturers dependent on China's solar manufacturing to meet demand. That is why this investigation must consider the entire supply chain, from polysilicon at the top to the finished modules at the end.

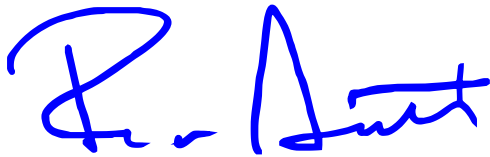
Any steps we take to address Chinese solar dominance must be carefully designed to distinguish between Chinese solar products and those from allies that share our environmental and fair competition standards. Working with our trusted partners will ensure that the U.S. has sufficient access to solar technology while also chipping away at Xi Jinping and Beijing's dominance in the solar industry.

America's energy security cannot be dependent on China's state-subsidized, forced labor-driven industry. By taking a holistic approach during this Section 232 investigation, Commerce can ensure that American innovation and jobs remain at the center of our nation's energy strategy, that American businesses are given a fair chance to compete at home and abroad, and that our country's energy security is not reliant on a foreign adversary.

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Thank you for your leadership on this critical matter. We stand ready to work with you in a bipartisan manner to restore fair competition and safeguard America's solar manufacturing base from China's predatory practices.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator