

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 21, 2018

Dear Mr. President:

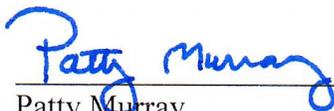
We write to follow up on a letter sent July 23, 2018 regarding REC Silicon and the U.S. polysilicon manufacturing industry. In July we warned that the trade dispute between the U.S. and China over solar power was threatening hundreds of highly skilled jobs in Washington State and Montana, and we regret to inform you that REC will be forced to completely shutter its operations in Moses Lake, Washington at the end of this month. The closure will result in the loss of 150-200 highly skilled manufacturers and will severely impact the economy of Eastern Washington.

As you are undoubtedly aware, in 2012 the Obama Administration unsuccessfully attempted to bolster domestic solar manufacturing capacity by levying tariffs on imported solar panels from China. In response, China announced a 50% tariff on American polysilicon, a crucial input in the production of semiconductors and solar panels. The impact of this Chinese retaliation has been devastating to the U.S. polysilicon industry, which has shed thousands of jobs since China announced tariffs in 2014. The damage inflicted on the US polysilicon industry was of course an unintended consequence, but one that has dramatically affected our constituents. We strongly urge you to move past the unsuccessful actions of the past Administration and find an immediate resolution to the trade dispute over Chinese solar panels and American polysilicon.

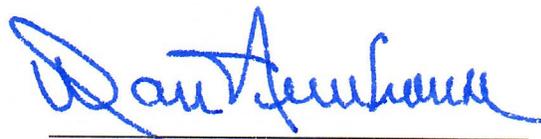
According to news reports, your Administration may soon reengage China in a new round of trade talks. We strongly encourage your trade negotiators to raise the issues facing the U.S. polysilicon industry, and we request a progress report on these negotiations as soon as possible. We also implore you to separate the negotiations over solar power from the larger bilateral trade conversations between the U.S. and China. The threats to the U.S. polysilicon industry are immediate and dire, and we believe this sectoral dispute could be resolved in a short period of time. We believe a resolution over solar panels and polysilicon could serve as a symbol of good faith on both sides, protect intellectual property that provides domestic manufacturers a competitive edge, and spark meaningful progress in the larger trade negotiations between the U.S. and China.

As we wrote in July, it is imperative the United States obtain a positive and permanent resolution for U.S. polysilicon companies like REC Silicon. Without a resolution, hundreds of highly skilled workers will lose their jobs and U.S. control of the world's most advanced polysilicon technology could be jeopardized.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



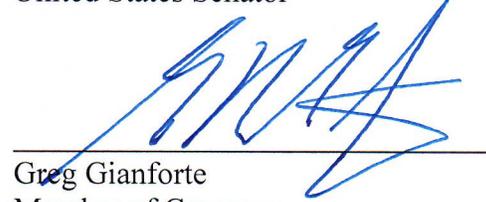
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative
The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce
The Honorable Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of the Treasury
The Honorable Terry Branstad, Ambassador of the United States to China
The Honorable Larry Kudlow, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
The Honorable Peter Navarro, Assistant to the President for Trade and Manufacturing Policy
The Honorable Francis Brooke, Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
The Honorable Ja'Ron Smith, Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy