

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 15, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

As you analyze the solar cell and module global safeguard investigation mid-term report provided by the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) pursuant to Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974, we urge you to take action to protect and strengthen America's solar manufacturing industry by eliminating the tariff exemption for bifacial modules.

The solar manufacturing industry is at a crucial turning point, spurred by incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act. During the final two years of 201 tariffs, it is essential that their implementation supports the growing U.S. solar manufacturing industry, which is critical to our nation's energy security and energy independence from China. In Georgia, companies have already invested over \$2.98 billion in solar manufacturing, projecting thousands of new clean energy jobs to our state.¹ To grow these investments, we ask you to eliminate the exemption for bifacial modules, which now account for approximately 90% of module imports.

The USITC notes in its February 2024 mid-term report that U.S. imports of bifacial modules doubled between 2020 and 2022. The report goes on to compare U.S. module imports from the first half of 2023 to those from the first half of 2022, noting that bifacial module imports were higher by 145.2 percent while non-bifacial module imports were lower by 37.0 percent.² However, domestic production of bifacial solar modules has significantly increased since these tariffs were instituted in 2018. These market trends underscore that the bifacial exemption is harmful to American manufacturing, including in Georgia. Removing this exemption would alleviate pricing pressure and bolster the growth of an important U.S. industry.

As the U.S. solar manufacturing industry in Georgia ramps up, the elimination of the exemption for bifacial panels would strengthen the United States' and Georgia's economy, protect U.S.

¹ Energy Innovation, Jack Conness, [In 2023, The United States Started Building Big Again, Thanks To Biden's Inflation Reduction Act](#), December 26, 2023

² U.S. International Trade Commission, [Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether or Not Partially or Fully Assembled Into Other Products: Monitoring Developments](#), February 9, 2024

national security, and serve the nation's long-term economic and energy security interests. We urge you to consider this urgent matter as you review and act upon the USITC's February 2024 mid-term report.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator

CC:

Ambassador Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative