The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

Thank you for your on-going efforts to support the growing solar industry in the United States. We appreciated your willingness to bring the solar trade dispute to the attention of Chinese leaders during your visit to China late last year.

We write because the dispute with China over solar goods continues to escalate, and we believe your leadership is critical to resolving the current situation. China continues to demonstrate an unwillingness to settle the dispute until our domestic solar industry presents unified proposals that remove existing trade restrictions. Therefore, in order to align the domestic solar industry, we ask you to bring folks together to develop a negotiated settlement that will lead to growth in all aspects of the solar industry. The full support of the White House is needed to lay the groundwork for a long-term settlement with China.

Earlier this year, the Department of Commerce commenced another round of anti-dumping investigations into Chinese solar panels, which will likely lead to additional tariffs and further retaliations from the Chinese. Continuing to let this dispute play out one case at a time will limit job growth and it may even lead to job loss.

The solar industry is experiencing remarkable growth. In fact, the industry employed over 140,000 workers last year, a 20 percent increase from the previous year. We want to see all areas of the industry continue to create high-paying jobs for Americans. From panel sales and installation to panel and component manufacturing, growth in the solar industry is an outstanding opportunity to create high-paying jobs and to enhance our energy security. That is why it is critical that the administration engage with all U.S. stakeholders to resolve this trade dispute as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator
Patty Murray  
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

John E. Walsh  
United States Senator

Richard Burr  
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator