

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 12, 2019

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

We are writing to follow up on our previous letters to again emphasize the importance of immediately resolving China's retaliatory duties on U.S. polysilicon exports as part of the ongoing negotiations with the Government of China. The continued application of these unfair trade orders threatens immediate, irreversible damage to the American polysilicon industry. As you and your team continue to work towards a potential agreement, it is imperative that you include the immediate termination of the Government of China's imposition of retaliatory antidumping and countervailing duties (AD/CVD) on U.S. exports of polysilicon in any agreement that you make with the Chinese. Absent the rapid resolution of this dispute as part of the agreement, hundreds of high wage jobs in Washington State will be lost in the coming weeks.

As you well know by now, REC Silicon, a world-class high technology manufacturer with significant operations in Washington State, has suffered enormous adverse impacts as a result of China's highly focused and aggressive industrial policy in relation to polysilicon expansion.

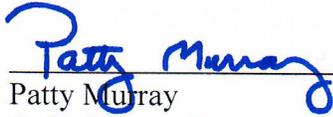
Given its prolonged and unjustified exclusion from China's market, REC Silicon is now under tremendous financial pressure. Without access to the Chinese market for polysilicon, it is increasingly apparent that REC will be forced to lay-off hundreds of high paying jobs and completely shutdown its operations in Washington State in the coming weeks. Such a shutdown is tragic, particularly now at this critical time as you work toward concluding a trade agreement with China that is aimed at redressing China's unfair trade practices – the very trade practices that threaten the viability of REC Silicon's continued operations.

It is therefore critical that the re-opening of the Chinese market to U.S. polysilicon exports is included in any trade agreement that is concluded with the Government of China.

Polysilicon industrial domination is an express goal of the "Make in China 2025" program, and China's actions are on the verge of completely undermining U.S. technology leadership in this regard. Not only will REC's impending shutdown in Washington cost hundreds of workers their jobs, it risks the complete loss of REC Silicon's important technologies to Washington State and the greater United States. This puts at risk a vibrant U.S. supply chain for key industrial inputs in the lithium-ion battery, semi-conductor, and solar industries in the United States.

Again, we thank you for and greatly appreciate your efforts, and wish you the best as you continue to work towards a vitally important trade agreement with the Government of China.

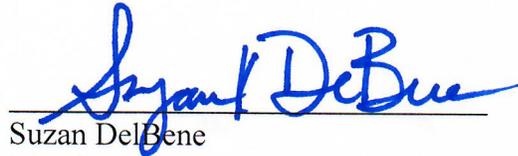
Sincerely,



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress