

STEVE DAINES
MONTANA

320 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-2651

United States Senate

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND
FORESTRY
APPROPRIATIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

April 17, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Stephen Vaughn
Acting U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Secretary Ross and Acting Trade Representative Vaughn:

I write regarding the long standing trade dispute between the United States and the People's Republic of China related to Chinese-produced photovoltaic solar panels and U.S.-produced polysilicon. It is critical that this issue is resolved as quickly as possible to protect U.S. manufacturing jobs in Butte, Montana, and elsewhere in the U.S. I urge you to ensure this issue is included in any negotiations with China related to the "100 day plan" that was announced following the summit between President Donald J. Trump and President Xi Jinping earlier this month.

As you may know, polysilicon is an essential input for solar panels and semiconductors and U.S. polysilicon manufacturers have long been net exporters. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing dispute, access to China's market has been severely restricted. Ensuring that U.S. polysilicon manufacturers have fair access to China's market and are able to compete on a level-playing field is of critical importance and has the potential to increase U.S. exports by hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

As you move forward in developing your priorities for the "100 day plan", I request that you make the resolution of this dispute a priority. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator