March 07, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to emphasize to you our continued, shared commitment to addressing the climate crisis in a way that supports domestic clean energy manufacturing jobs. As you stated in your State of the Union address: we need not continue to rely on foreign supply chains, we can make it in America. As American solar manufacturers, we remain committed to achieving this goal to reshope the solar supply chain and build our clean energy future in America.

The fact is, the industry is entering a critical inflection point – one that could result in the United States creating thousands of jobs and reshoring the entire solar supply chain – or losing the domestic solar manufacturing industry forever. Unfortunately, recent policy decisions have reduced the necessary market certainty for domestic solar manufacturers to invest in large-scale projects to reshope the solar supply chain. As a result, enacting long-term, durable policy solutions to attract and sustain domestic solar manufacturing at every step – such as the Solar Energy Manufacturing for America Act (SEMA) – is more important than ever before. We are grateful the House included the core elements of SEMA in their proposed clean energy and climate tax package\(^1\) and the Senate Finance Committee expanded on and incorporated this critical provision in their December draft.\(^2\)

We estimate that, coupled with the deployment incentives proposed in the Senate draft, the advanced solar manufacturing production tax credit could result in a domestic solar module manufacturing capacity sufficient to meet the \textbf{30 GW in projected annual deployment by 2025, resulting in nearly 18,000 direct manufacturing jobs and over 60,000 indirect jobs.} We also project to have an entirely domestic solar manufacturing supply chain capable of exceeding domestic demand with nearly 100% American panels, resulting in approximately a total of \textbf{30,000 direct manufacturing jobs and over 100,000 indirect jobs by 2030} throughout the solar supply chain.

\(^1\) https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr5376/BILLS-117hr5376rh.pdf
\(^2\) https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/12.11.21%20Finance%20Text.pdf
This would make the U.S. a competitive global player in solar manufacturing, allowing us to more rapidly increase solar installations while enabling our allies around the world to do the same.

As solar is poised to be the world’s leading source of energy by 2040, the U.S. cannot remain reliant on overseas solar supply chains, nor can we assume those monopolized supply chains will continue to keep prices low. Moving from foreign dependence on fossil fuels to foreign dependence on clean energy is not how we can truly build back better and meet our climate targets. SEMA will enhance competition throughout the solar supply chain, with global-scale American factories continuing to press forward cost savings in solar deployment, and bring the country’s ambitious climate goals within reach.

We hope to demonstrate that with the right policies in place, we can enter into a new domestic solar manufacturing renaissance that creates tens to hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs. We hope we can count on your leadership to ensure the federal government takes the right steps to support this vital piece of the clean energy economy. Your leadership, along with the leaders in Congress, have brought us to the edge of a transformation in a 100% U.S.-based solar manufacturing supply chain. We can deliver the very revitalization of American manufacturing and pride in stamping solar products “Made in America” you so eloquently called for in your speech. We encourage you to press forward to deliver this win-win for the economy and our fight against climate change.

Sincerely,

Solar Energy Manufacturing for America Coalition, on behalf of

Auxin Solar  Maxeon Solar Technologies
Caelux Corporation  Meyer Burger Americas
CubicPV  Mission Solar Energy
First Solar, Inc.  REC Silicon Inc.
Hanwha Q CELLS North America  Sunnova Energy International Inc.
Heliene  Swift Solar
Hemlock Semiconductor Operations LLC  Silfab Solar
Leading Edge Equipment Technologies  Wacker Polysilicon North America