

**BEFORE THE  
UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION**

***Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether Or Not Partially  
or Fully Assembled Into Other Products***  
**Investigation No. TA-201-75**

**STATEMENT OF MARTIN POCHTARUK  
PRESIDENT, HELIENE INC.**

My name is Martin Pochtaruk, and I am the President and founder of Heliene Inc. in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada. Heliene is a premium-quality manufacturer of the solar modules. We were the first to manufacture solar modules in Canada, back in 2010. More recently, we are also manufacturing modules in Mountain Iron, Minnesota.

Our company opposes the imposition of a safeguard remedy on solar modules from Canada. Imports from Canada have not injured, nor do they threaten to injure, Suniva and SolarWorld. In fact, the small Canadian solar module industry is a vital part of an integrated North American market and a source of much-needed capital, technology, and know-how. We are growing the U.S. market for solar products to the benefit of producers on both sides of the border.

Let me tell you about a U.S.-Canadian success story. Heliene currently operates a solar module manufacturing facility in Iron Mountain, Minnesota. We entered the Minnesota market in 2015, initially through contract manufacturing with Silicon Energy, the prior operator of the plant who exited the industry in early 2017. We stepped in to keep the Minnesota plant running, leasing the plant and equipment from the City of Mountain Iron. Our production in Minnesota involves the assembly of solar modules and was supported by the “Made in Minnesota” program, which seeks to attract manufacturing jobs to Minnesota. While currently employing 10 employees, with the investment in a new manufacturing line for solar modules we are expanding that number to 75 by the end of this year.

Demand for solar energy is growing in Minnesota, with a forecast of 800 megawatts of new solar projects this year, I see a bright future for us in Minnesota.

If a Section 201 remedy were implemented, my Minnesota factory will need to be closed and our expansion cancelled as U.S. solar cell producers can’t meet the growing U.S. demand, requiring us to procure solar cells in the international market.

Finally, My experience with Petitioners highlights the close relationships among the Canadian and U.S. solar industry participants. When Heliene started its module manufacturing operations in 2010, we sourced solar cells from Bosch in Germany – later acquired by SolarWorld – and from Suniva in the United States. We were also initially qualified, as a toll processor, to manufacture modules in Canada for Bosch.

While we continued to buy cells from SolarWorld until 2016, we dropped Suniva as a cell supplier in 2013. Suniva's cell quality had become erratic due to excessive fragility, and we increasingly experienced higher than acceptable cell breakage. These quality-related problems coincided with a period of rapid growth at Suniva, who unable to secure high-quality, mono-silicon wafers from its established suppliers, Suniva apparently began purchasing less-reliable wafers on the open market. This adversely impacted Suniva's products, causing significant business problems and manufacturing inefficiencies for Heliene.

Thank you for having me here today. I would be glad to answer your questions.