

**Global Safeguard Investigation:
Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells and Modules (Whether or Not Partially or Fully
Assembled into Other Products), Inv. No. TA-201-75**

**Statement of Deep Patel
Founder and CEO
GigaWatt
August 15, 2017**

Let It Shine, a book written by John Perlin documents the 6,000 year story of solar energy. The book shows how today's solar revolution builds on the tenacious efforts of countless generations of innovators such as Albert Eisenstein who received a noble peace prize for the photovoltaic effect.

In 1931 Thomas Edison said, "I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I wish I had more years left!"

Bell Labs in 1954 created the first silicon solar cell with a vision that silicon solar cells could eventually power the entire world.

We stand here today, on the heels of rapidly growing worldwide movement and a rich 6,000 year old history to power our lives with sunshine and the decisions made in this case is either going to keep affordable solar in the hands of the people or stifle the energy of the sun

Hi, my name is Deep Patel, Founder and CEO of GigaWatt a solar company I started out of a garage in 2006 and grew into a company that employs 25 people. Small solar business owners like myself are referred to by industry analysts as the "long tail", a vast array of thousands of small solar companies across the nation. Collectively we employ a majority of the people working in the solar industry and have an intimate relationship with the end customers that are deciding to install solar panels on their homes, businesses, churches and schools.

Over the last 10 years in this industry, sitting at the kitchen table with my customers I've learned a lot of how and why people invest in solar panels. What I've concluded is a decision to go solar is like any other investment, the numbers have to make financial sense.

In my pre-hearing brief I show how the electric utility lobby in 2016 stepped up their campaign to slow down distributed solar power across the country by changing net metering policies and implementing unfair rate structures designed to diminish the financial benefits of investing in a rooftop solar system. These policy changes have injured the entire distributed solar industry.

In conclusion adding tariffs to solar cells and modules will be like adding salt to a wound to the distributed solar industry which has already been damaged by utility net metering policy changes and unfair rate structures. It's estimated that up to 80,000 American jobs will be jeopardized and we'd be going against the advice of the great inventor Thomas Edison by not putting our money on the sun and solar energy!