

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3680

To amend subchapter III of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to repeal increases in duties and a tariff-rate quota on certain crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells and to require the Secretary of Energy to establish and carry out a program to support and incentivize manufacturing of solar energy components in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. MORAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend subchapter III of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to repeal increases in duties and a tariff-rate quota on certain crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells and to require the Secretary of Energy to establish and carry out a program to support and incentivize manufacturing of solar energy components in the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting American
3 Solar Jobs and Lowering Costs Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF INCREASES IN DUTY AND A TARIFF-**
5 **RATE QUOTA ON CERTAIN CRYSTALLINE SIL-**
6 **ICON PHOTOVOLTAIC CELLS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) According to the National Solar Jobs Cen-
9 sus, the solar workforce increased by 167 percent
10 between 2010 and 2020, adding approximately
11 156,000 jobs.

12 (2) Nearly 90 percent of solar jobs in the
13 United States are in the installation, operation and
14 maintenance, sales, distribution, and project develop-
15 ment sectors, all of which heavily depend on the
16 availability of affordable solar panels.

17 (3) In 2020, solar accounted for 43 percent of
18 all new electricity-generating capacity in the United
19 States, representing solar’s largest ever share of new
20 generating capacity and ranking first among all
21 technologies for the second year in a row.

22 (4) According to the Solar Energy Industries
23 Association, the United States solar industry has
24 lost almost 13,000 jobs since duties were imposed
25 under chapter 1 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974
26 (19 U.S.C. 2251 et seq.) with respect to solar cells

1 and modules in 2018, in addition to almost 20,000
 2 projected new solar jobs that were not realized as a
 3 result of those duties.

4 (b) REPEAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 99 of the
 5 Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is
 6 amended—

7 (1) by striking U.S. Note 18; and

8 (2) by striking—

9 (A) subheadings 9903.45.21 and
 10 9903.45.22, and the superior text to such sub-
 11 headings; and

12 (B) subheading 9903.45.25.

13 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 14 this section take effect on the date of the enactment of
 15 this Act and apply with respect to articles entered, or with-
 16 drawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after that
 17 date.

18 **SEC. 3. SUPPORT FOR DOMESTIC SOLAR MANUFACTURING.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
 20 propriations, the Secretary of Energy shall establish and
 21 carry out a program to support and incentivize manufac-
 22 turing of solar energy components in the United States.

23 (b) EMPHASIS.—The program required under sub-
 24 section (a) may emphasize the following:

1 (1) Research and development to expand and
2 reduce the cost of manufacturing polysilicon, solar
3 panels, encapsulants, backsheets, and inverters in
4 the United States.

5 (2) Development of new manufacturing capa-
6 bilities for solar products not currently manufac-
7 tured in the United States, including ingots, wafers,
8 or cells.

9 (3) Developing and deploying educational and
10 skills training curricula needed to support the solar
11 industry and ensure the United States can build and
12 maintain a trusted and predictable talent pipeline
13 for the manufacturing of solar products in the
14 United States.

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