UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

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301 COMMITTEE

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SECTION 301 TARIFFS PUBLIC HEARING

TUESDAY
MAY 15, 2018

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The Section 301 Committee met in the Hearing Room of the U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW, Washington, D.C., at 10:00 a.m., William Busis and Arthur Tsao, Co-Chairs, presiding.

PRESENT

WILLIAM BUSIS, Chair, U.S. Trade Representative ARTHUR TSAO, Chair, U.S. Trade Representative ALEXANDER AMDUR, Department of Homeland

Security, Customs and Border Protection SARAH BONNER, Small Business Administration MAUREEN GREWE, Department of the Treasury AMY HOLMAN, Department of State
JULIA HOWE, U.S. Trade Representative
NICOLE KORKOS, Council of Economic Advisors
TERRENCE McCARTIN, U.S. Trade Representative
SAGE MITCH, Department of the Treasury
STEVAN MITCHELL, Department of Commerce
BRYAN O'BYRNE, Small Business Administration
MAUREEN PETTIS, Department of Labor
RACHEL SALZMAN, Department of Commerce
ARI SULBY, Department of State

STAFF PRESENT

BILL BISHOP, U.S. International Trade Commission TYRELL BURCH, U.S. International Trade Commission

WITNESSES PRESENT

MATTHEW AHLIN, Pittsburgh Carbide Die Co.

DAVID BAER, Element Electronics

DONALD BANKER, Banker Steel Company

ROBERT BECKWITH, Rosman Corporation

NATHAN BOWEN, National Association of State

Departments of Agriculture

MIKE BRANSON, RHEEM Manufacturing Co., Air

Conditioning Division Operations

TIM BRIGHTBILL, Wiley Rein on Behalf of

SolarWorld Americas

ED BRZYTWA, American Chemistry Council

MARY BUCHZEIGER, Lucerne International

GEORGE CARLISLE, AlterSciences

CLARK PACKARD, R Street Institute

JOSEPH COHEN, Snow Joe, LLC

PAUL CZACHOR, American Keg Company

LAURENT DE MEY, Skyline Steel

LINDA DEMPSEY, National Association of

Manufacturers

BILL FATH, Weir Slurry Group

DAVID FENIGER, American Posts, LLC

THOMAS FISH, Anvil International

ROBERT GRIGGS, Trinity Products, LLC

PATRICK HAYDEN, SMT Corporation

VANCE HAYS, Standard Industrial Corporation

OWEN HERRNSTADT, International Association of

Machinists and Aerospace Workers

MICHELLE ERICKSON JONES, Farmers for Free Trade

JOSH KALLMER, ITI Council

JONATHAN KING, TCL North America

ROBERT KOPF, U.S. Steel Corporation

SCOTT LECHNER, Zoeller Pump Company

XINZE LIU, China General Chamber of Commerce-USA

AARON LOWE, Auto Care Association

DANIEL McGAHN, American Superconductor

Corporation

MIKE MOHAN, Best Buy Co., Inc.

FRANK MOU, Interpreter for Guiqing Wang
QING REN, China Chamber of International
Commerce

PATRICK ROGERS, TECO-Westinghouse Motor Company

CHAD SEVERSON, Insinkerator

GREG SKELTON, SABIC

CHAS SMITH, Roku, Inc.

MICHAEL STATECZNY, New Castle Stainless Plate
JEFFREY STERNER, High Industries, Inc.

JIAN TAN, China Chamber of International
Commerce

JOHN TANG, DHH Washington, D.C. Law Office

GEORGE TUTTLE, III, Sanden International (USA),

Inc.

GUIQING WANG, China Chamber of Commerce for

Import and Export of Machinery and

Electronic Products

CORY WATKINS, Schumacher Electric

BO YI, Southeast University Law School

CONTENTS

Opening Statement from Chair and Introduction of the 301 Committee 6
Panel One
Tim Brightbill, Wiley Rein on behalf of SolarWorld Americas
Owen Herrnstadt, International Association
of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
Patrick Hayden, on behalf of SMT Corporation23
Cory Watkins, Schumacher Electric
Sanden International (USA), Inc
George Carlisle, AlterSciences
Daniel McGahn, American Superconductor
Corporation (AMSC)
Panel Two
Matthew Ahlin, Pittsburgh Carbide Die Co66
Don Banker, Banker Steel Company
Laurent De Mey, Skyline Steel
Robert Griggs, Trinity Products, LLC 80
Robert Kopf, U.S. Steel Corporation
Jeffrey Sterner, High Industries Inc
Thomas Fish, Anvil International
Panel Three
Mary Buchzeiger, Lucern International 114
Jonathan King, TCL North America 120
Aaron Lowe, Auto Care Association 126
Mike Mohan, Best Buy Co., Inc
Patrick Rogers, TECO-Westinghouse
Motor Company
Chas Smith, Roku, Inc 142
Bill Fath, Weir Slurry Group 146

Panel Four
Mike Branson, Rheem Manufacturing Co.,
Air Conditioning Division Operations 168
Robert Beckwith, Rosman Corporation 174
Paul Czachor, American Keg Company 178
David Baer, Element Electronics 182
David Feniger, American Posts, LLC 188
Chad Severson, InSinkErator 194
Michael Stateczny, New Castle
Stainless Plate
Scott Lechner, Zoeller Pump Company 205
Panel Five
Walker Bassa Waldamal Barradaldan of Glala
Nathan Bowen, National Association of State
Departments of Agriculture
Ed Brzytwa, American Chemistry Council 228 Joseph Cohen, Snow Joe LLC
Linda Dempsey, National Association of
Manufacturers
Clark Packard, R Street Institute 246
Greg Skelton, SABIC
Josh Kallmer, ITI Council
Cobii Idaamica, 111 Codiicaa, 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 200
Panel Six
Xinze Liu, China General Chamber of
Commerce-USA
Jian Tan, China Chamber of International
Commerce
John Tang, DHH Washington, DC Law Office 297
Guiqing Wang, China Chamber of Commerce
for Import and Export of Machinery
and Electronic Products 298
Bo Yi, Southeast University Law School 302
Adjourn

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 | 10:00 a.m.

The Office of the United States Trade

Representative, in conjunction with the InterAgency Section 301 Committee, is holding this

public hearing in connection with the Section 301

investigation of China's Acts, Policies, and

Practices Related to Technology Transfer,

Intellectual Property, and Innovation.

The United States Trade Representative initiated this investigation on August 18, 2018.

The scope of the investigation is set out in the Notice of Initiation published at 82 FR 40213.

This is the second public hearing in this investigation.

On October 10, 2017, USTR and the Section 301 Committee held an initial hearing.

At that hearing, the witnesses focused on whether the acts, policies, and practices of the Government of China covered in the investigation are unreasonable or discriminatory and burden or

restrict U.S. commerce and thus, actionable under Section 301.

Based on a review of the evidence collected in the investigation, on April 2, 2018, the Trade Representative announced his determination that the acts, policies, or practices under investigation are actionable.

This finding is supported by a detailed 200-page report. The report is published on the USTR website.

The Trade Representative also announced on April 2 a proposed action to be taken in response. The proposed action is an additional 25 percent duty on a list of products from China, with an annual trade value of approximately \$50 billion.

Details on the Trade Representative's determination in the investigation and on the proposed action are set out in an April 6, 2018 Federal Register Notice. It is published at 83 FR 14906.

The purpose of today's hearing is to

receive public testimony regarding the proposed tariff action. The Section 301 Committee will carefully consider the testimony provided at this public hearing.

The Committee will also review the written comments already received in response to the Federal Register Notice, as well as rebuttal comments due on May 22. The 301 Committee will then make a recommendation to the Trade Representative on the action to be taken in the investigation.

Before we begin the hearing, I will provide some procedural and administrative instructions, and then ask the agency representatives participating in the hearing today to introduce themselves.

The hearing is scheduled for three days, finishing mid-day on Thursday. We have some 17 panels of witnesses with over 100 individuals scheduled to testify. The provisional schedule has been posted on the USTR website.

We have seven, well actually, six panels of witnesses scheduled to testify today. We will have a brief break between panels and a longer break for lunch. I hope to cover the first two panels before we have our lunch break at mid-day.

Each organization appearing at the hearing is limited to five minutes of oral testimony. Each witness has lights, there's some lights in front of the witness tables.

It will start with green. At the four-minute mark, it will turn to yellow. And at the five-minute mark, it will start flashing red, at which time, you should please finish up your testimony.

After the testimony from each panel of witnesses, the Section 301 Committee will have an opportunity to ask questions. All questions will be from agency representatives. There will be no questions accepted from the floor. Committee representatives will generally direct their questions to one or more specific witnesses.

Post-hearing comments, including any written responses to questions from the Section 301 Committee, are due by Tuesday, May 22, 2018. The rules and procedures for written procedures are set out in the Federal Register Notice.

Given the number of witnesses and the schedule, we request that witnesses, when responding to questions, be as concise as possible.

We likewise ask witnesses to be understanding if and when the Chair ask that a witness conclude a response. In this regard, witnesses should recall that they have a full opportunity to provide more extensive responses in their post-hearing submissions.

No cameras or video or audio recording will be allowed during the hearing. A written transcript of this hearing will be posted on the USTR website and on the Federal Register Docket as soon as possible after conclusion of the hearing. If you have any questions about the facilities, please feel free to ask the guards at

the front desk.

We are pleased to have international trade and economic experts from a range of U.S. Government agencies. The agencies will be providing different staffing during the hearing and they will, when a new staff member comes, they will introduce themselves to inform the public and to help out the transcription.

So, if you could all introduce yourselves. Bryan?

MR. O'BYRNE: Good morning. My name is Bryan O'Byrne, from the Office of International Trade at the Small Business Administration.

MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. I'm Amy Holman, I'm the Director of the Office of Multilateral Trade at the Department of State.

MR. MCCARTIN: Good morning. My name is Terry McCartin, I'm the acting Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for China Affairs.

MR. MITCHELL: Good morning. I'm

Stevan Mitchell, the Director of the Office of

Intellectual Property Rights in the International

1	Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.
2	MS. GREWE: Good morning. I'm Maureen
3	Grewe in the Office of International Trade at the
4	Treasury Department.
5	MS. PETTIS: Good morning. I'm Maureen
6	Pettis. I'm at the Bureau of International Labor
7	Affairs at the Department of Labor.
8	MR. AMDUR: Good morning. I'm
9	Alexander Amdur. I'm with the Office of Trade at
LO	U.S. Customs Border Protection.
L1	CHAIR BUSIS: And I am William Busis,
L2	Deputy Assistant USTR for Monitoring and
L3	Enforcement, and Chair of the Section 301
L 4	Committee. I think our first witness can
L5	proceed, Mr. Bishop?
L6	MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
L 7	I would remind witnesses to please be mindful of
L8	the time allocation. And I would also remind
L9	everybody that there's absolutely no photography,
20	recording, or streaming of today's proceeding.
21	Thank you.
22	Our first witness on this panel is Tim

Brightbill of Wiley Rein, on behalf of SolarWorld Americas. Mr. Brightbill, you have five minutes.

MR. BRIGHTBILL: Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Busis. And thanks to all of you for holding and participating in this hearing. I'm Tim Brightbill of Wiley Rein, LLP, testifying today on behalf of SolarWorld Americas.

I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you to express SolarWorld's support for the duties on Chinese-origin products being imposed under Section 301 and to request that USTR add solar cells and modules to that list of products.

As USTR is aware, SolarWorld Americas is the largest and one of the only remaining U.S. manufacturers of solar cells and modules. It was one of the very few companies to testify during the first Section 301 hearing. In fact, the hacking of SolarWorld's information and technology were a key part of the USTR investigation.

SolarWorld and the domestic solar

industry have been devastated by the Chinese

Government's policies and practices with respect
to technology, intellectual property, and
innovation.

This is detailed in USTR's comprehensive Section 301 report, which includes the following findings and information. In 2012, while SolarWorld was litigating a trade petition it had filed against solar imports from China, the 3PLA stole thousands of sensitive files from SolarWorld on at least 12 occasions.

According to DOJ, such information would have enabled a Chinese competitor to target SolarWorld's business operations aggressively from a variety of angles.

SolarWorld stated that the Chinese Government's cyber-theft of its proprietary business information resulted in more than \$120 million in damages in the form of lost sales and revenue, because Chinese producers entered the market earlier than expected based on the proprietary information taken.

SolarWorld stated that its efforts to stay ahead of the Chinese wave of illegally dumped and subsidized imports were thwarted by the hacking and theft of proprietary information about the manufacturing process that SolarWorld had innovated.

And as the SolarWorld example illustrates, Chinese cyber-theft of commercially sensitive information often takes place in industries that the Chinese Government has prioritized for state support. And the victims often operate in U.S. industries that are already suffering from the result of China's other policy tools.

In short, SolarWorld Americas provided uniquely useful and valuable information to USTR for its report and submitted direct evidence of harm to its operations from the unfair and illegal Chinese trade practices.

To ensure that the Chinese companies who use this stolen solar technology and sell into the U.S. market do not profit from their

theft, USTR should include solar cells and modules on the list of products to be subject to Section 301 duties.

USTR has explained that it will consider several criteria when it chooses these products. First, the duties will be imposed on products that benefit from Chinese industrial policies.

As USTR is aware, the Chinese

Government maintains numerous policies to support

the development of renewable energy and has

artificially supported its domestic solar

industry through industrial plans.

In addition, tariffs on these products are not likely to disrupt the U.S. economy, as there are both U.S. sources, including SolarWorld, and many alternative non-Chinese import sources for these products.

I would also note that the Section 201 solar safeguards investigation from earlier this year was a global action, which does not penalize China for its illegal and unfair actions, such as

solar cyber-theft.

Therefore, we request that USTR impose additional Section 301 duties on solar cells and modules. In addition, the U.S. Government may wish to consider other restrictions on Chinese solar products which may be more effective than tariffs.

For example, the U.S. Government should restrict federal procurement of Chinese technology based on stolen data and technology and should prohibit or restrict Chinese solar cells and panels from all U.S. military and veterans installations and housing.

These restrictions should extend to all Chinese companies using solar PERC technology, regardless of whether the manufacturing occurs in China or a third country.

Ensuring that the 301 remedy addresses
Chinese solar manufacturers and benefits U.S.
solar manufacturing would penalize Chinese statesponsored cyber-hacking, combat China's efforts
to monopolize solar and renewable energy

manufacturing, protect U.S. energy independence and critical infrastructure, and address China's systemic illegal and unreasonable practices that burden and restrict U.S. commerce.

Therefore, we request that USTR add solar cells and modules to the list of products subject to the Section 301 duty. Thank you on behalf of SolarWorld Americas, and I'll be happy to answer questions. Thank you.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Brightbill.

Our next witness is Owen Herrnstadt with the

International Association of Machinists and

Aerospace Workers. Mr. Herrnstadt, you have five
minutes.

MR. HERRNSTADT: Thank you. My name is

Owen Herrnstadt, I serve as Chief of Staff and

Director of Trade and Globalization to the

International Association of Machinists and

Aerospace Workers.

The IAM represents several hundred thousand active and retired members throughout North America. Our members work in a variety of

industries, including aerospace, manufacturing, electronics, Defense, transportation, ship-building, and many more.

Much of what our members produce and service depends upon international trade. Given our vested interest in trade matters and our expertise in manufacturing, especially aerospace, we have, for many years, advocated support for trade actions that prohibit the forced transfer of technology and production to other countries from the U.S., especially with respect to China.

As has been previously stated, few countries are as capable and as aggressive as China in building a strong and vibrant aerospace industry, often on the reliance on the transfers of production and technology from Western companies, which they pit against one another.

Transfers of production and technology from U.S. aerospace and related companies is a serious matter. Among other things, they cost U.S. aerospace jobs and lead to a further decline in our aerospace industrial base in at least four

different, but related ways. And I would guide you to my written testimony to look at those.

Efforts to stop China's demand that U.S. aerospace companies transfer technology and production, as I mentioned, are long overdue.

The administration should move quickly to place tariffs on Chinese aerospace parts, components, and sub-assemblies that cost U.S. jobs.

The list of U.S. tariffs recently proposed includes many manufacturing items, including aircraft parts along the 8803-line series, as well as others. That said, identifying specific aerospace parts, components, and sub-assemblies that have been transferred to China at the cost of U.S. aerospace work is extremely difficult.

The detailed nature of these activities is not public and often proprietary. The growing nature of global supply chains adds to the complexity of tracking all of the parts. Take, for example, suppliers.

First, second, and third tier

suppliers to a U.S. aerospace company may have outsourced its products to China. Detailed information concerning these goods are controlled by U.S. aerospace companies and their suppliers, which remain the best and most accurate source for details on the precise nature of these forced transfers.

For this reason, as part of its investigation, we urge you to request that U.S. aerospace companies and their suppliers report the parts, components, and sub-assemblies that they have transferred to China in connection to China's overt and subtle demands for forced transfers.

Although difficult to identify specific parts, what is publicly known anecdotally related to transfers of technology and production to China should give USTR a good start.

And there are many examples of aerospace products that are now coming in from China for both large commercial aircraft

producers, as well as others, and others in the manufacturing arena. Specific parts have also been covered as well, and I would direct you to my written testimony.

Arguments that placing tariffs on aerospace products that were transferred to China would cost U.S. jobs should be very, very closely scrutinized.

Asserting that a 25 percent tariff on Chinese parts would price these goods out of the market, when the imported Chinese part is a slight fraction of the overall price of a multimillion dollar aircraft, should undergo serious questioning.

In making its final determination,

USTR should give great weight to placing tariffs
on aircraft parts, components, and sub-assemblies
that are already produced in the United States.

It should also give weight to placing tariffs on
parts, components, and sub-assemblies that were
produced in the United States prior to being

transferred to China.

But in order for all of these actions to be effective, they must also be combined with a comprehensive strategy that includes multilateral efforts to stop China from pitting one country's aerospace country against another. Thank you and I'd be happy to take further questions.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Herrnstadt.

Our next witness is Patrick Hayden, on behalf of

SMT Corporation. Mr. Hayden, you have five

minutes.

MR. HAYDEN: Thank you very much. My name is Patrick Hayden. I am testifying on behalf of Tom Sharpe, the Vice President of SMT Corporation, who could not be here this morning due to his flight being cancelled by weather.

There is a section in the testimony
where I will be speaking essentially in -- well,
I'll be inserting his name for I. Chairman Busis
and members of the Committee, thank you for the
opportunity to provide remarks today on behalf of
the Coalition for American Electronics Recycling,

or CAER.

This industry and organization includes over 150 U.S. companies and supporting members that operate more than 300 facilities in 37 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

CAER members believe that electronics recycling should be performed securely and sustainably to protect national security and for the benefit of the American economy.

The United States exports, by conservative estimates, more than 750,000 tons of electronic waste materials, or e-waste, each year. This waste stream includes items such as computers, phones, and other electronics that contain the intellectual property of U.S. businesses, including companies that work on Defense and other technologies related to national security.

The key problem is that e-waste exports from our shores provide feed stock for counterfeit electronic components that pose a

serious threat to our national security, critical infrastructure, and public health and safety.

Counterfeiters, based largely in

China, harvest parts from used computers, then

use sophisticated techniques to create fake

components that are challenging to detect once

they enter supply chains.

Mr. Sharpe's company, SMT Corporation, provides counterfeit detection services, and he himself can say that counterfeiters' sophistication increases every year. The fake parts are sold as new, often under false branding that overstates the capabilities of the chip.

As an electronics distributor serving the Defense industry, Mr. Sharpe personally saw a small portion of China's electronics counterfeiting industry during a visit to Shenzhen, China, that resulted in an impromptu tour of the nearby city of Shantou.

He witnessed sensitive electronic component parts being harvested from piles of e-waste, and later learned that much of this e-

waste might have originated in our country. It is a vicious cycle, with our e-waste exports leaving our shores and coming back to us as counterfeit microchips.

It undermines our economy and security in four key ways. One, the theft of intellectual property. The Semiconductor Industry Association states that semiconductor companies spend tens of billions of U.S. dollars per year developing, manufacturing, and supporting products that will operate reliably for many years in customer applications. In contrast, counterfeiters spend minimal money developing and manufacturing products.

Threats to national security.

According to a study by the Senate Armed Services

Committee, counterfeit electronic components,

which are prone to failure at any time, are

pervasive in military weapons and equipment.

The study found 1,800 individual cases, totaling more than one million suspected counterfeit electronic parts in Defense hardware

used by our war fighters. These include control systems for missiles, military aircraft, and helicopters.

The study notes that much of the material used to make counterfeit electronic parts is electronic waste, or e-waste, shipping from the United States and the rest of the world to China.

While there have been a variety of actions to address this problem since the Armed Services report, it remains serious. Just this month, an electronics distributor was charged with selling counterfeit electronics with military and commercial uses.

Three, risk to public health and safety. The problem is not limited to Defense systems. Experts say counterfeiters also threaten the reliability of critical infrastructure, such as telecommunications, energy, and transportation, as well as healthcare technology, consumer products, and more.

Digital networks are also at risk.

Counterfeit electronics provide a platform for hackers and cyber-terrorists to launch attacks.

Malware added to counterfeit microchips could steal information or prevent a device from operating as designed.

Finally, the loss of American jobs.

As stated in President Trump's National Security

Strategy, promoting economic prosperity is a key

factor in national security. When we ship e
waste overseas, we also export good American

jobs.

A recent study shows that requiring domestic recycling of e-waste would create up to 42,000 quality jobs. Limiting the export of untested, non-working e-waste is a key component of any plan to address these issues. It is vital to our national security and economic interests to process these materials in the United States to keep them out of the hands of counterfeiters.

CAER urges the Committee, as part of its findings, to suggest to the U.S. Trade

Representative and the lead agencies, including

Commerce and Treasury, that this important national security issue should be a key component in any negotiations with the Chinese Government.

This would be a followup on issues related to IP that were raised by the U.S. team that traveled to China on May 3 of this year. In addition, we urge USTR, Commerce, and Treasury to begin the process of adding e-waste to the Export Control List.

This would have the benefit of protecting U.S. IP from counterfeiters, encouraging the growth of domestic e-recycling industry, and ensuring that electronics that we rely on for so many things are safe for our military, our first-responders, and our consumers.

We have submitted more detailed written testimony that includes evidence backing up this testimony. CAER is happy to provide any additional information and is prepared to assist the Committee and USTR in any way you may require.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony, and can answer any questions.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Hayden.

Our next witness is Cory Watkins of Schumacher

Electric. Mr. Watkins, you have five minutes.

MR. WATKINS: Good morning. Thank you to everyone for having us here to speak to you about this issue and how it affects Schumacher Electric. I am Cory Watkins, President of Schumacher. We just celebrated our 70th year in business, all, of course, in the U.S.

We are one of the world's largest manufacturers of battery chargers, jump-starters, and other automotive-related products. And we are in full support of the proposed tariffs, but would actually ask that you include our finished goods as part of the Harmonized Code listing that is currently not part of what was on the docket.

Some of the components that are in our products were included in the docket, but we would ask that, in order to protect our

intellectual property, that the finished goods also be included.

By way of background there, without doing so, we still run the risk of the very problem that faces us today, which is Chinese companies taking our intellectual property, copying it, and then selling it to some of our own customers.

That presents a myriad of problems for us, because it is quite difficult, not only to serve a Chinese company with any sort of lawsuit for intellectual property, but it's also not very good business when you have to sue your customer for stealing that property.

And as the law is written now, of course, if we cannot serve a Chinese company, we're left only with going after the importer of record, which in that case is often our customer.

So, what we are looking for is the opportunity to protect the intellectual property that we have developed over the past 70 years.

Currently, we have over 79 patents for different

charging methods and means of charging batteries.

And with the process that exists right now, there is a huge cost to us, even if we were able to sue a Chinese company, each one of those lawsuits costs, you know, millions of dollars for us to defend, even if we are correct.

And with the threat of the counterfeit goods, the margin dollars are not there to invest that much in protecting it. So, that tariff would help us to protect our intellectual property.

And it also has a very beneficial side effect in that it would allow us to increase the amount of U.S. jobs for those same products.

Currently, we manufacture in many spots in the world, but our primary focus is in the U.S. and North America.

And if we don't have this type of protection, we're left with what currently exists, and I can just tell you firsthand that that is not well enough enforced and doesn't have enough teeth to prohibit what has been going on.

Just in the past few weeks, we learned that one of our biggest customers is going with another Chinese manufacturer that we are already involved in litigation over for stealing our intellectual property.

And we would ask that we have our finished goods protected under this tariff, so that we have the ability to keep American jobs here and actually expand from where we currently sit. And it just levels the playing field for U.S. companies far beyond what currently exists today.

So, by doing that, we're going to be able to increase research and development jobs here, manufacturing jobs here, marketing jobs here, and we would just ask that when you finalize the docket, that you would include our Harmonized Tariff Code, which is 8504.40.95, and that's included in our testimony. Thank you very much.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Watkins.

Our next witness is George Tuttle, III, on behalf

of Sanden International (USA), Incorporated. Mr. Tuttle, you have five minutes.

MR. TUTTLE: Thank you. Good morning, members of the Section 301 Committee. My name is George Tuttle and I'm here today to present the following comments on behalf of my client, Sanden International (USA), Inc.

Mr. Jason Augustyn, Senior Vice

President and Plant Manager, had intended to be

present, but he was injured in an accident last

week and was unable to attend.

Sanden is a mid-sized manufacturing company with 400-plus employees located in rural Wylie, Texas, with a population of 41,000 people. The company produces automotive air conditioning compressors in a Foreign-Trade Zone manufacturing facility, where high-grade castings are machined to precise tolerances, and both domestic and foreign components are assembled to form automobile air conditioning compressors for the U.S. and the world automotive market.

Sanden has become the world's largest

air conditioning compressor manufacturer that is not owned or controlled by an automobile manufacturer. We supply components to the most demanding and respected companies throughout North and South America, and around the globe.

Sanden is at the forefront of the industry, making use of computer-aided design products, comprehensive testing, and precision manufacturing. The facility in Wylie, Texas is a showcase of state-of-the-art technology and innovation.

We use the latest technology available to design and evaluate products, including 3D and CAD modeling, solid modeling, and prototype construction.

Our environmentally controlled chambers and wind tunnels simulate conditions of almost any temperature, humidity, and vehicle speed. In fact, the Wylie chamber is large enough to accept a Class A truck or a large unit of agricultural equipment.

With every new vehicle design,

environmental concern, or regulation, our customer needs change. We continually project those needs and work toward effective, innovative solutions.

For example, Sanden pioneered the development of high-efficiency compressors for electric vehicles long before production of the first generation of OEM electric cars and trucks were available.

To maintain our business and technological advantage, as well as design and research for new and emerging products, we would be severely impacted if the special 301 duties are enacted on the parts needed by Sanden.

Implementation of the Section 301
tariffs without modification or allowance of duty
mitigation or elimination by utilizing the
benefits of the Foreign-Trade Zone will
significantly impact the cost of manufacturing at
Sanden.

We estimate an additional \$3.5 million in duty payments per year will be required for

the affected components that we currently import from China. Such an aggressive and instantaneous impact to our finances will significantly alter our ability to maintain our current level of employment.

Because of the nature of our business and long-term supply contracts with automobile manufacturers, we cannot simply pass on these cost increases.

The dramatic increase in our costs to make use of previously imported parts in our FTZ will make it difficult, if not impossible, to contemplate future investment and maintain our current workforce levels.

This will result in reductions in facility investment and employee workforce. As noted in our introduction, we have made significant capital investments in our manufacturing facilities and they are textbook examples of state-of-the-art processes, making the most of the abilities of both man and machine.

Should the proposed 301 tariffs be implemented, however, further expansion and capital investments will be placed on hold or cancelled altogether.

Our Wylie, Texas facility has a current headcount of 431 employees. Should the proposed Section 301 tariffs be implemented, the company has projected an immediate reduction in staffing by 39 people. This reduction would affect diverse areas of our facility, including production, sales, and general administration.

Sanden would be specifically affected by the proposed special duty rate additions to several of the targeted Harmonized Tariff Schedule Codes, including electromagnetic clutch parts for compressors under 8505.90, air compressor parts under 8414.90, and fuses under 8536.10.

We source our materials domestically whenever possible, however, due to limited availability, some products are not available in the United States. The application of the

proposed Section 301 tariffs to these HTS Codes 1 2 will greatly impact Sanden's financial stability. Just concluding, Sanden requests that 3 the above-referenced items and their related HTS 4 Codes be removed from Section 301 applicability. 5 If this is not available, Sanden 6 7 requests that any pre-existing purchase of items 8 in the FTZ inventory prior to the implementation 9 date be excluded from the tariff and be allowed to remain in the FTZ in a non-privileged foreign 10 11 status. And I'm welcome to take any questions 12 Thank you. you have. 13 MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Tuttle. 14 Our next witness is George Carlyle of AlterSciences. Mr. Carlyle, you have five 15 16 minutes. 17 MR. CARLYLE: I support the imposition 18 of duties by the United States Government firmly. 19 The United States, since World War II, has worked 20 since World War II to build trading relationships 21 based on reciprocity and nondiscrimination.

This is clearly demonstrated by the

amazingly unrestrictive General Agreement on
Trade in Services, the GATS, the country has
submitted to the World Trade Organization, WTO.
In contrast, our valued trading partner China has
one of the most restrictive GATS in the WTO.

How do we encourage our promising and dependable partner to revisit their approach and truly build a win-win trading relationship with the United States?

Despite having almost 20 years to align to the commitments made in the WTO, we continue to get push-back or delays on the execution of the promised commitments. Do they plan to make the promised changes or did they just say them to get into the WTO?

We need to earn the respect of our

Chinese counterparts by imposing these tariffs to

help them see how serious we are and hold them

accountable. Opening their markets is the only

realistic solution to our differences and

challenges.

As of today, some of the world's best

technology and telecommunication companies cannot compete fully and fairly in China, and this cannot continue. This was an issue prior to China's ascension into the WTO and continues in 2018.

In the packet that I submitted with my testimony, I also included testimony -- an editorial from Nancy Pelosi that she wrote back in 2000. At that time, the United States had a deficit of almost \$90 billion with China. Today, it's way further. I encourage you to look at that as you listen to my comments.

Continuing, if the Chinese are serious about creating jobs and opportunities for their citizens, why would they restrict fuller Western investment to make their country better?

The Chinese Communist Party, CCP, at this moment, is not interested in creating a consumer society, but a worker society. We need to encourage our Chinese counterparts to look beyond nationalism and to speed the unhindered development of the vast human capital in their

country.

Also in the packet, I have attached a copy of an article from the BBC about the struggles of the young Chinese and their unhappiness. Leisure and recreation are important parts of personal development that should be encouraged to maintain sustainable societies.

And this leads me to my final question, what value is it to have access to a market if the citizens have no time to appreciate or sample the unique products or services non-Chinese firms offer?

In closing, China's unwillingness to work with the United States sends a clear message that we need a different playbook in 2018 to influence them.

And I recommend the application of tariffs on Chinese imports immediately or as soon as possible, with quarterly or semi-annual reviews. Thank you for listening to my testimony.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Carlyle.

Our final witness on this panel is Daniel McGahn
with American Superconductor Corporation. Mr.

McGahn, you have five minutes.

MR. MCGAHN: Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify today on behalf of American Superconductor Corporation.

My testimony today will focus on our unique experience with IP theft and our pursuit of legal actions against the Chinese company that stole our intellectual property. I also want to talk about the administration's proposed actions and restitution for American companies harmed by Chinese IP theft.

AMSC has actively participated in the 301 proceedings since the investigation began in August of 2017. We've provided extensive information regarding the theft of AMSC's technology by a Chinese state-owned enterprise, Sinovel Wind.

Sinovel stole AMSC's property and proprietary software to produce and retrofit its

own wind turbines in China. Sinovel also supplied wind turbines containing the stolen IP, which were funded by American taxpayer money, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, where AMSC is headquartered.

Sinovel's criminal actions harmed the lives of hundreds of workers, severely impeded the company's growth, and nearly destroyed AMSC.

Over 700 AMSC employees lost their jobs. AMSC lost over 96 percent of its stock value, more than \$1 billion.

And AMSC lost contracted revenues and profits of over \$1.2 billion. The Department of Justice has calculated the damages to be a multiple of this loss, with a maximum fine for the Chinese of \$4.8 billion.

China has actually profited from Sionvel's theft of AMSC's intellectual property. Approximately 8,000 Chinese wind turbines continue to operate on AMSC's stolen software. And we estimate that Chinese state-owned power companies benefitted to the tune of \$15-20

billion from AMSC's stolen software.

AMSC has never been compensated for its losses, but a recent U.S. Federal Court ruling provides hope for us and for other harmed companies. In January, the jury found Sinovel guilty of stealing AMSC's technology. We are cautiously optimistic that the court will provide restitution to AMSC.

Subsequently, the Department of

Justice issued a letter to Sinovel in which it

states, and I quote, the United States is

exploring all avenues to collect restitution. We

see this as an avenue.

Let me now turn to AMSC's pursuit of justice through the Chinese legal system. In September 2011, nearly seven years ago, AMSC filed litigation in the Chinese courts for approximately \$1.2 billion in damages. To date, the Chinese legal system has yet to render a decision.

China suggests it has demonstrated its commitment to protect intellectual property

rights. For example, in 2014, China established several specialized IP courts to showcase China's commitment to improve IP protection.

In 2015, President Xi Jinping spoke at length on punishing wrongdoers on cyber-theft of commercial secrets and on protecting the lawful rights and interests of foreign companies in China. China's actions showcase the failure of China's legal system.

After AMSC's two criminal convictions, our case becomes a clear opportunity for China to translate its rhetoric into reality. Restitution to AMSC will become a testament, we hope, to President Xi's rhetoric.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands of other
American companies likely have gone on or are
going through a similar ordeal with respect to
Chinese IP theft. We believe direct governmentto-government negotiation is necessary to address
IP theft and hold China accountable for its
practices.

We applaud the administration's

determination to take action pursuant to the Section 301 investigation. American workers, American companies, and the U.S. economy have suffered as a result of China's failure to respect and protect intellectual property rights.

There is an opportunity for the administration and Congress to work together to establish a mechanism to provide restitution to American companies economically harmed by Chinese IP theft.

Funding for such a program would derive from trade sanctions imposed by the President, including the tariffs on imports from China. We would be pleased to discuss these ideas with the administration and members of Congress.

In conclusion, AMSC wants to thank the President and his team for initiating and conducting this important investigation. The U.S. action in response to Chinese IP theft is long overdue.

We've been at this for seven years.

We have two criminal convictions, one in Europe 1 2 and one in America, and overwhelming facts. we cannot get restitution, then why would any 3 4 other American company seek help from the U.S. 5 Government on this issue? We look forward to working with the 6 7 administration and Congress to ensure restitution 8 for American companies harmed by Chinese IP 9 Thank you for the opportunity to present theft. 10 our comments. 11 MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. McGahn. 12 Mr. Chairman, that concludes direct testimony 13 from this panel. 14 CHAIR BUSIS: Thank you. Mr. McCartin, would you like the first question? 15 16 MR. MCCARTIN: Thank you. My question 17 is for --18 MR. BISHOP: Can you pull your mic a 19 little bit closer, please? 20 MR. MCCARTIN: My question is for Mr. 21 Brightbill. You proposed that we add Chinese solar cells and solar modules to the list of 22

products on which we'll be imposing tariffs.

Currently, we already have antidumping duties and countervailing duties in place
on Chinese solar cells and solar modules. And
earlier this year, the United States also imposed
global safeguard duties.

Can you describe what the impact would be of adding Chinese solar cells and solar modules to our list of products on which we are proposing to place an additional 25 percent tariff?

MR. BRIGHTBILL: Yes, Mr. McCartin, thanks. We think adding solar cells and modules to the tariff list would have a very beneficial effect on U.S. manufacturing and U.S. workers without harming downstream industries.

It's true that there are duties in effect, both anti-dumping and countervailing duties, as well as safeguard duties, but of course, those remedies address other practices, either the unfair trade, in terms of dumping and subsidies, or a global surge of imports that did

include China, but many other countries as well.

So, we think it is fully justified to include those products on the 301 list as well.

And we think that the impacts would be very positive.

And of course, I did note also in my testimony that USTR may want to consider additional remedies as well, in addition to tariffs, that would have a direct beneficial effect on manufacturing and U.S. jobs.

MR. MCCARTIN: Thank you.

MS. GREWE: Hi, my name is Maureen Grewe from the Treasury Department. I have a question for Mr. Hayden on behalf of SMT Corp. Could you elaborate for us how the e-waste industry would be impacted by the perspective tariffs on the \$50 billion of Chinese exports that are the subject of the hearing?

And do you have any recommendations for how additional restrictions on e-waste could avoid a disproportionate burden on small business?

1 CHAIR BUSIS: Before you start, we are 2 mindful that you are a fill-in, so you're in a tough spot. 3 MR. HAYDEN: Yes, if -- I can pass that 4 5 question on to Mr. Sharpe if you'd like. MS. GREWE: Yes, that would be helpful. 6 7 MR. HAYDEN: I think that might be a 8 little better. That might be the best way to go 9 about it. MS. GREWE: Sure, if it would be 10 possible for them to maybe address it in post-11 12 hearing comments, that would be great. 13 MR. HAYDEN: Absolutely. 14 MS. GREWE: Thank you. 15 MR. MITCHELL: Stevan Mitchell from the 16 Department of Commerce. My question is for Mr. 17 Herrnstadt. 18 In your testimony, you made the case 19 that when technology is transferred overseas, the 20 skills that accompany the transfer are lost, 21 leading to the further decline in our industrial 22 Could you expand upon that comment and why

those skills would not continue to reside among the U.S. workforce?

MR. HERRNSTADT: Sure, I'd be happy to.

First of all, it's not something new. The claim

that I mentioned, the National Academy of

Sciences has done quite a bit of work on offsets

or outsourcing of our work. Others have done a

lot of work on how that has worked to the

determent of our industrial base.

Very simply, if you move the production to another country, there's no one here to do the production and you lose a generation of skill-based work. More importantly, in the long run, you lose the industry and at the same time, you also build up your competitors, who will then come back and compete with whoever is remaining.

That's certainly true of China, as
China's capacity in terms of aerospace and
manufacturing grows, to a great extent to the
determent of companies and suppliers here in the
U.S.

U.S. workers have been told for years 1 2 to be quiet when their jobs are transferred to China, that they should be content with the work 3 4 that remains. Don't say anything, or there will 5 be retaliation or something worse. And year after year, as more work is 6 transferred offshore to countries like China, 7 8 manufacturing decreases and our skill base 9 decreases and our infrastructure, in terms of 10 manufacturing, decreases. 11 And with it, the U.S. jobs, our 12 industrial base, and the innovative technology, which leads to new industries and new employment, 13 14 also decreases and eventually, goes away. 15 MR. HERRNSTADT: Thank you. 16 CHAIR BUSIS: Mr. Amdur? 17 MR. AMDUR: I have a question for Mr. 18 Watkins. 19 MR. BISHOP: Could you pull your mic a 20 little closer, please? 21 MR. AMDUR: Sure. I have a question for Mr. Watkins. So, in your testimony, you said 22

your international supply chain for manufacturing, are any of these products produced in China and one of these inputs be subject to the tariffs?

MR. WATKINS: Yes, sir. In all candor, we manufacture throughout the world. Currently, we have facilities in the United States, in Mexico, in Belgium, in China, in Australia.

But, yes, if we are -- if our finished goods are included, we will be affected by what we manufacture in China. And I am 100 percent okay with that, because what I would instantly do is bring it back here to the U.S. where it belongs.

CHAIR BUSIS: Maureen?

MS. PETTIS: I have a questions for Mr. Carlyle. You testified about the struggles and unhappiness of young Chinese workers. In your opinion, how would the proposed tariff action improve the situation of workers in China?

MR. CARLYLE: Well, I don't know if it

will improve their working conditions, but the

1	Chinese Party's concern with political stability,
2	if we restrict their product from coming in
3	there, that will idle their factories, that will
4	create a motivation for them to change their
5	actions.
6	If people they work long hours. If
7	they have no work at all and no money I mean,
8	in the packet, they're making like \$500 a month.
9	If they have no income, that would be
LO	unacceptable, they would cry for change.
L1	MS. PETTIS: So, you're looking at it
L2	in terms of the changes being pushed from the
L3	bottom up?
L 4	MR. CARLYLE: We consume everything and
L5	we drive their economy. If we stop consuming
L6	their products, it stops the machine.
L7	MS. PETTIS: Thank you.
L8	MR. O'BYRNE: So, my question is for
L9	Mr. McGahn. How do you view the proposed tariff
20	action in the context of AMSC's efforts against
21	Sinovel?
22	MR. MCGAHN: I think anything that

helps to create leverage in the dialogue. After going through eight years of a lot of scheduled negotiation that clearly haven't resulted in remuneration to our company, that this approach, albeit different, may be the right path to allow for both sides to understand that resolution of IP theft-related issues are in benefit, not only of the United States, but of China as well.

MR. O'BYRNE: Thank you.

MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. My question is for Mr. Tuttle. Mr. Tuttle, can you elaborate on the difficulties of making modifications to your supply chain in response to the proposed tariffs?

MR. TUTTLE: Yes, I can, thank you. I actually had briefed that in my comments, but I had run out of time. So, the biggest problem is that, in order to switch production to the domestic industry, it takes approximately four to five years to bring on a new supplier.

So, without the benefit of being able to use these parts in the Foreign-Trade Zone,

it's going to have a severe and immediate impact on the ability of Sanden to produce and sell its products.

In our written comments, we've indicated the time line and the breakdown is as follows. It takes approximately five years, six months for a supplier investigation and negotiation, six months to develop the necessary tooling.

Once that's done, another three months for design validation and testing. And then, once that is completed, then six month customer and vehicle testing and approval. And then, once the part is approved, three months for implementation and contract initiation for the new supplier.

So, overall, the time span to bring on a new part takes approximately five years.

CHAIR BUSIS: Mr. Tuttle, do you have a sense whether your competitors in the air conditioning compressors for the automotive market, whether your competitors also source

parts from China and would face the same 1 2 difficulties? MR. TUTTLE: Mr. Augustyn would have 3 4 that answer, but I don't have that visibility. 5 They are concerned that the automotive manufacturers may turn to other sources. 6 7 But at this point, we have locked in 8 contracts, so that won't affect our ability to 9 recoup the additional duties, the company will have to eat the increase in duties. And that's 10 11 going to affect their staffing levels, as well as 12 their investment. CHAIR BUSIS: All right. So, if you 13 14 could address in your rebuttal comments whether other -- if you know whether other companies in 15 16 your industry would face this same type of 17 difficulty? 18 MR. TUTTLE: Yes, thank you. 19 CHAIR BUSIS: For AlterSciences, Mr. 20 Carlyle, could you address, you've given a 21 systemic comment, could you address how the

proposed action would affect your particular

company, if at all? 1 2 MR. CARLYLE: I'm sorry, I didn't quite hear you with the noise outside here --3 4 CHAIR BUSIS: Yes. MR. CARLYLE: -- could you say it 5 again? 6 7 CHAIR BUSIS: Could you address whether 8 the proposed action would affect your particular 9 company you're representing? 10 MR. CARLYLE: Yes. So, currently, I 11 provide software and technology. I partner with 12 Intel, Microsoft, and Adobe, and we work together 13 in that market. I have concerns about 14 protections for my IP. 15 I currently work through an 16 organization -- so, currently -- let me just say 17 this real quick. Currently, right now, IP 18 disputes, most people handle through the WTO. 19 But the WTO doesn't really have any enforcement 20 power. 21 Before I had my own firm, I used to 22 work in these huge multinationals and we used an

organization called WIPO, which was the World
Intellectual Property Organization. They had a
dispute resolution system that allowed us to
protect our IP better without all the cost.

So, for example, he made the comment that he had to hire lawyers in that country and he had to do a lot of things to protect his IP over there. But if you worked through WIPO, they would recognize your application here in the USTPO in that country and they had penalties if that country would not recognize that. Many U.S. firms don't even know this.

But specifically in regards to me, I
do not want to do technology transfer, I am
having difficulty finding capable Chinese over
there to work with. I do not want to do joint
ventures over there.

I would like to be able to go in there as a wholly-owned firm and be in full control of my own destiny. Some of the restrictions in the General Services Agreement, I just find are just unacceptable and we need to do something

different.

CHAIR BUSIS: One for Mr. Herrnstadt -MR. BISHOP: Can you pull your mic a
little closer?

CHAIR BUSIS: Yes. Mr. Herrnstadt, so, your union, as I understand it, supports the proposed action on aerospace parts. Are you -- but you're also suggesting additional products to be covered, is that the gist of it?

MR. HERRNSTADT: No, to clarify, one, we're talking about the parts that are mentioned in the HTS Code in the Register. But we also think that there needs to be a close review of all those parts to determine the impact those have on jobs.

Are those parts equipment that's been transferred to China, as part of the forced tech transfer, that has been negatively impacted on U.S. workers? Part of the investigation needs to concern that.

It also needs to concern, are we losing the future ability to engage in those jobs

as China develops its own technological ability to compete with that coming back?

And we're also urging USTR, in its investigation and in its review, to ask aerospace companies and suppliers and manufacturers, for that matter, a list of specific parts and equipment, components that have been transferred to China as part of the forced tech transfer of it, that have cost U.S. jobs.

They're the ones who have the list, the complete list, hopefully, not only their list and suppliers as well, and they're the ones that could be able to say specifically what specific item, what specific part, big or small, has been transferred and have left U.S. workers out of work. Thanks.

CHAIR BUSIS: So, we're going to take either a five minute break or a break for lunch, depending on our availability of the next panel.

And we would just ask you to hold for at least five minutes. Thank you.

MR. BISHOP: We dismiss this panel with

our thanks and we invite the members of Panel Two 1 2 to come forward, please. CHAIR BUSIS: Okay. Since we're ahead 3 4 of schedule, we're going to have a break for 5 lunch for one hour until noon. Thank you. (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter 6 7 went off the record at 10:59 a.m. and resumed at 8 12:01 p.m.) 9 MR. BISHOP: Will the room please come 10 to order? Mr. Chairman, our next panel has been seated. Our first witness on this panel is 11 12 Matthew Ahlin of Pittsburgh Carbide Die Company. 13 Mr. Ahlin, you have five minutes. 14 CHAIR BUSIS: Wait, before you start, I'm just going to introduce - we have new 15 16 members. 17 So before you start, some of you 18 weren't here in the morning when I gave some 19 procedural instructions and I won't repeat all of 20 them, but the main is, the main thing for the 21 witnesses is, as you have been informed, each organization will have five minutes to present 22

their initial oral testimony.

You have a light in front of you. The green light starts and then at four minutes, it will go to yellow, and then at five minutes, it will start flashing red which means you should wind up your testimony.

After you have all given your testimony, there will be questions from the 301 Committee. The questions normally will be directed to a specific person, and please keep your responses concise and recall that you have the opportunity to provide more detail and follow-up information in your written rebuttal comments due May 22.

With that, I think we'll reintroduce the Section 301 Committee again for the public and also for the court reporter. So Alex, do you want to start?

MR. AMDUR: Hi, good afternoon,

Alexander Amdur. I'm with the Office of
MR. BISHOP: Closer to your mic,

please.

1	MR. AMDUR: Okay, good afternoon. I'm
2	Alexander Amdur. I'm with the Office of Trade of
3	U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
4	MS. PETTIS: Hello, I'm Maureen
5	Pettis. I'm an International Economist with the
6	Bureau of International Labor Affairs at the
7	Department of Labor.
8	MS. SALZMAN: I'm Rachel Salzman. I'm
9	with the Office of Intellectual Property Rights
10	and the International Trade Administration with
11	the Department of Commerce.
12	CHAIR BUSIS: I'm William Busis,
13	Office of General Counsel, USTR, and the Chair of
14	the Section 301 Committee.
15	MR. McCARTIN: Good afternoon, my name
16	is Terry McCartin. I'm the Acting Assistant U.S.
17	Trade Representative for China Affairs.
18	MS. HOLMAN: Good afternoon, I'm Amy
19	Holman. I'm the Director of the Multilateral
20	Trade Office at the Department of State.
21	MR. BISHOP: Our first witness on this
22	panel is Matthew Ahlin of Pittsburgh Carbide Die

Company. Mr. Ahlin, you have five minutes.

MR. AHLIN: Good afternoon. I am Matt Ahlin, Vice President and General Manager of Pittsburgh Carbide Die Company. I represent the third generation of our family-owned business.

Our company has served the nail and rivet industries in the United States for over 65 years.

We produce the dies and tooling that form finished nails and rivets. We only use American-made tungsten carbide and steel in our products. We are here today representing our manufacturing business and our customers in the United States.

The tariffs imposed on Chinese goods through the 232 and 301 investigations will protect much of the steel industry, but they leave all of the finished products exposed.

Without protection of finished products such as nails and rivets, our customers and our company will continue to struggle. I am here to ask you to include protection on nails

and rivets in the tariff coverage.

For the nail and rivet industries, the 232 and 301 tariffs create significant risks.

Due to limited supplies, the tariffs have already caused an increase of approximately 25 percent in the prices of domestic rod and wire which are used to produce nails and rivets.

This significant increase translates directly into increased costs for our customers, and in turn, makes them less competitive with imported products. A number of our current nail manufacturing customers are already experiencing a decrease in orders causing them to lay off some employees.

At the same time, the tariffs have caused shifts in supplies across the world with prices of wire rod and wire falling. This translates into lower raw material prices for foreign producers.

Because finished goods are not covered by the tariffs, there is a natural incentive to convert rod and wire into finished products and

send the nails and rivets to the United States because there are no 232 or 301 duties on them.

Due to this, imports of finished goods are able to come into the United States at even lower prices and it's difficult for nail manufacturers to raise their prices to cover the increased cost.

If the 232 and 301 tariffs do not cover finished products, U.S. manufacturers of nails and rivets will be squarely in the crosshairs of foreign competition.

I would note that the U.S. nail industry already has been fighting unfair imports for over 10 years and has eight anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders in place primarily because of imports, which had in the past more than 100 significant manufacturers of nails and rivets, now only has a handful of significant producers and several dozen niche and specialty producers.

I have attached to my written testimony a partial list of U.S. nail and rivet

manufacturers that are no longer in business or no longer manufacture in the United States.

Of the approximately 70 manufacturers, only three still manufacture, but they do so overseas. Failing to cover finished goods in the 232 and 301 duties makes no sense.

At the end of the day, if finished goods producers fail, the reality is that the upstream steel producers who benefit from the 232 and 301 duties will have fewer customers as well. The flaws I've just talked about will compound with 30 years of intellectual property loss.

Nail machines, rivet machines, and tooling are sophisticated and involve a great deal of intellectual property. We and our competitors in the United States have suffered intellectual property loss for years. We have all sold our tooling to companies that have forwarded this tooling to companies in China and other places to be reverse engineered.

We are not asking for tariffs on our tooling or from our offshore competitors, but on

behalf of our customers and the nails and rivets that they produce. They have the same made in America pride that we do and they deserve the same protection being given to the upstream producers.

We would like to continue to make dies for the nails and rivets for American industry for years to come. I have identified the specific items that need to be covered in my written testimony.

Thank you for your time and attention.

I am happy to answer any questions you have.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Ahlin.

Our next witness is Don Banker of Banker Steel

Company. Mr. Banker, you have five minutes.

MR. BANKER: Good afternoon, members of the Section 301 Committee. My name is Donald Banker. I'm the founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Banker Steel headquartered in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Let me begin by applauding the administration's continued focus on ending

longstanding and inherently unfair trade

practices by China. These practices have harmed

and continue to harm businesses like Banker

Steel.

We manufacture and install fabricated structural steel for the east coast commercial construction market. As one of the largest domestic fabricators in the United States,

Banker's 550 workers across Florida, Virginia,

New York, and New Jersey have left an indelible imprint on our nation.

It is Banker Steel that serves as the foundation of the Freedom Tower in New York City. The very first beams of structural steel installed at Ground Zero as we recovered as a nation and rebuilt that hallowed site were fabricated at our facility in Virginia.

Our steel is also the backbone of
Washington Nationals baseball park just a few
miles from where we gather today, as well as the
Gaylord Hotel and Convention Center, the MGM
National Harbor in Maryland.

We're also rebuilding the Orlando

International Airport and building One Vanderbilt

Tower, the picture I have in front of me, an

extraordinary new building adjacent to the Grand

Central Station that will forever mark the New

York City skyline.

I share this with you because projects just like these built with steel fabricated here in the United States by our skilled workers are at grave risk today.

To that end, Banker Steel respectfully requests that USTR add several Chinese structural steel products that are classified under the harmonized tariff schedule to the list of products subject to the proposed additional 25 percent duty.

Structural steel fabricators are the intermediaries in the supply chain. We sit between the middle level steel producers and the buildings, bridges, and infrastructure projects that underpin our communities and drive our economy.

This hearing is a continued signal from this administration that our nation's policies can and must finally be changed to address these unfair practices.

The President's decision to impose tariffs under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act which protects our steel mills is one we strongly support, and now we need to do even more. We need to defend our domestic steel fabricators as well. The types of projects I mentioned are at risk for a simple reason.

Imports of fabricated steel from China have surged in recent years. This surge is believed to represent nearly 40 percent of all fabricated steel imported into the United States. To be clear, this data likely under reports China's actual share of the U.S. market.

For example, we believe that material amounts of Chinese origin steel are shipped to third countries for processing into building components. They are then imported into the United States under NAFTA with no tariff. Action

is needed. Tariffs on Chinese mill produced steel can be evaded without complementary duties on the downstream fabricated products as well.

Imports of Chinese mill produced steel are potentially subject to anti-dumping and countervailing duties, Section 232 duties, and now also Section 301 duties, yet that same

Chinese mill produced steel can enter the U.S.

duty free if it is also fabricated in China or by NAFTA countries.

This creates a perverse incentive for the project owners to outsource both the mill material and the fabrication of that steel and we need that to change.

This threat is particularly relevant in the context of Section 301. Structural steel is the backbone of our nation's infrastructure system, including buildings, bridges, power plants, water, and other public projects.

The designs and security features of these complex structural steel projects are developed using sophisticated 3D modeling

technology. This technology, as the USTR has noted, can be exploited by the government of China. That allows China to compromise the security of our own critical infrastructure.

The U.S. construction market has become a rich target for foreign steel interests, including China. That interest has expanded from exporting milled steel to exporting fabricated steel.

Without action by USTR to add the fabricated steel product HTS numbers to the list of covered products under both Section 232 and 301, this trend will continue. Chinese producers will evade the intent of our trade rules as they seek to avoid the effective tariffs on mill steel products.

We thank this Committee for its work and appreciate the opportunity to share our views today.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Banker.

Our next witness is Laurent De Mey of Skyline

Steel. Mr. De Mey, you have five minutes.

MR. DE MEY: Good afternoon. My name is Laurent De Mey and I am the President of Skyline Steel, the wholly owned subsidiary of Nucor Corporation.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to express our support for the President's strong action against China's trade violations and to request that you add steel sheet piling and additional large diameter pipe products to the tariff list.

The relevant HTS numbers are in my written statement. In addition to those, we request that you also add the HTS numbers for steel hollow bar which we will provide in our post-hearing submission.

Skyline Steel has production

facilities in Arkansas, Illinois, Mississippi,

Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington. We have

storage facilities, coating and steel fabrication

locations for on-time delivery in 35 sites

throughout the nation, as well as a broad

engineering and seals team supporting the needs

of our customers.

Our business is fully focused on supplying engineered steel solutions for the foundation of construction projects. Our markets range from bridge building to port construction, from excavation support to environmental remediation, from foundation of large structures such as high-rise buildings, stadiums, and hospitals to storm protection solutions.

We produce steel sheet piling,
threaded bar, hollow bar, strand anchor, and
welded structural pipes in diameter ranging from
10 inches to 15 feet in addition to many other
steel foundation products.

Unfairly traded Chinese imports have had significant harmful effects on Skyline's profitability, employment, and ability to innovate and invest.

As one example, we permanently had to shut down one of our three pipe production lines at our Longview, Washington facility. This came after losing multiple bids to unfairly traded

imports right in our backyard along the Columbia River.

Despite being literally next door, these projects were awarded to Chinese mills offering pipe at much lower pricing than any company playing by the rules could provide. The loss of production obviously means the loss of jobs.

Skyline Steel's sheet piling business has also been negatively impacted. Whether it is for contamination and remediation in Detroit, underground parking garages in Seattle, four projects in Louisiana, or general contracting in New York City, Chinese sheet piles have been sold with low cost in the U.S. market. And even with Section 232 tariffs, Chinese material has continued to materially harm Skyline's business in sheet piling, pipe piling, and hollow bar.

Simply said, Chinese imports have continued to undercut producers in the United States leading to few projects for Skyline and the rest of the U.S. steel industry.

As USTR found in its Section 301 report, imports from China has been fueled by the Chinese government policies and unfair trade practices. Skyline is pleased that the U.S. government will impose an additional duty of 25 percent on certain Chinese origin products to help address these unfair and illegal practices.

We urge USTR to also include sheet piling and other large diameter pipe products and hollow bar on the list of Chinese products subject to the duty. These products fall squarely within the USTR's criteria.

First, as the U.S. government is well aware, these imports benefit from the Chinese government's distortive industrial policies, including steel industry's specific five-year plans and Made in China 2025.

In addition, tariffs on these products are not likely to disrupt the U.S. economy because there are multiple U.S. producers and alternative non-Chinese import sources for these products.

Imports of these sheet piling and pipe products total approximately \$37 million. While this may be a small portion of our total trade with China, the impact on U.S. manufacturers and workers is huge.

American workers, including our

Skyline Steel teammates, cannot continue to lose
high-paying jobs because of China's industrial
plans, technology transfer policies, cyber theft,
and illegal government subsidies.

Skyline can compete and will compete with any steel producer in the world, but we need a level playing field to do so. Thank you for taking the steps to address Chinese unfair trade practices.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. De Mey.

Our next witness is Robert Griggs of Trinity

Products, LLC. Mr. Griggs, you have five

minutes.

MR. GRIGGS: Good afternoon. My name is Robert Griggs. I'm President and founder and Trinity Products. I appreciate the opportunity

to be here and I thank the USTR and all those involved in its Section 301 investigation for taking critical steps to address China's unfair practices.

Trinity fully supports the duties on Chinese products being imposed under Section 301. We also ask that the USTR cover steel sheet piling and additional large diameter pipe products classified in HTS numbers 3101.10.00, 7305.31.40, and 7305.39.10 under the Section 301 duty.

First, some background on our company, in 1979, my business partner and I founded

Trinity Products in St. Charles, Missouri. We began as a steel broker, but soon added fabrication facilities.

In 2000, we adopted an open book management philosophy of running our business, sharing up to 20 percent of the profits with each and every employee.

In 2006, we started construction of a new state-of-the-art spiral well pipe mill, and

one year later, we produced our first piece of pipe. Today, we just rolled our 67,541st piece of pipe.

I have invested everything that I have in Trinity Products and not just financially.

Trinity is a family operation. I have worked closely with both my sons. I owe it to myself, my family, and roughly 160 employees to do everything in my power to make sure that we succeed. That's why I'm here today.

We have always played by the rules, but unfortunately, others do not. Chinese imports in particular are injuring our industry.

As explained in the USTR's detailed report, these imports from China are encouraged by Chinese government policies of unfair practices with respect to technology, intellectual property, and innovation.

Trinity supports the government

addressing these harmful practices by imposing an

additional duty of 25 percent on many Chinese

products, including steel products. It's very

important to Trinity and our industry that the USTR also include sheet piling and additional pipe products on the Section 301 list.

U.S. imports from China under these three relevant HTS numbers accounted for about \$37 million in '17. That was a 320 percent increase just one year prior in '16. Chinese imports of sheet piling and these pipe products increased even more in the first quarter of '18 compared to the same period last year.

This is undoubtedly the result of the Chinese government's illegal support of Chinese producers of steel products like sheet piling.

Adding sheet piling and pipe to the 301 list would directly address China's unfair trade practices and their adverse impact on the U.S. economy.

USTR has noted in Section 301, duties will be imposed on products that benefit from Chinese industrial policies, including Made in China 2025. For decades, the Chinese steel industry has benefitted from policies of the

Chinese government, including five-year plans specific to the steel industry.

The Made in China 2025 policy also specifically addresses the steel sector and the technological road map for Made in China '25 priority sectors. At the same time, these tariffs are not likely to disrupt the U.S. economy as there are U.S. and alternative product services for sheet piling and pipe.

Unfair imports of these products from China have seriously harmed Trinity's operations. For example, in January of 2017, we lost a large dredging job in New Orleans to China. This was a \$3.5 million project that Chinese producers won by selling their pipe at roughly the cost of our raw materials, hot rolled coils.

These kinds of losses have left us with no choice but to cut our production, let go a large percentage of our work force. We have also been forced to cancel planned modernization and expansions which would have allowed us to hire more employees.

With all of these, I have come to a 1 2 crossroads. Do I want my family to stay in the steel pipe business after 40 years? With the 3 Chinese government subsidizing their steel 4 5 industry without a level playing field in the United States, first, why would I invest more 6 capital in this industry? 7 8 Secondly, how could I allow my family 9 to continue in this industry where we are cheated each and every day? It is unacceptable to be 10 11 losing work in our backyard to China when it 12 doesn't play fair. 13 I implore you to do the right thing to 14 help fix this wrong now. Trinity thanks the USTR 15 and other government agencies involved in this 16 investigation. 17 MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Griggs. 18 Our next witness is Robert Kopf of the United 19 States Steel Corporation. Mr. Kopf, you have five minutes. 20 21 MR. KOPF: Good afternoon. My name is

Robert Kopf and I am the General Manager of

Business Support for United States Steel

Corporation. I appreciate the opportunity to

appear today in support of strong and

comprehensive action under Section 301.

As a direct victim of the Chinese government's cyber attacks, U.S. Steel strongly supports the administration's proposal to take action under Section 301.

As someone who has been actively involved in all aspects of our tin mill products business, I appreciate that the administration has included imports of certain tin mill products from China on its proposed list of products that would be subject to tariffs.

U.S. Steel however respectfully requests that the Trade Representative update that list to include all of the HTS statistical reporting numbers for tin mill products to better reflect the administration's intended relief and avoid circumvention.

The proposed list inadvertently omits two tariff subheadings that also cover sizable

imports of tin mill products from China as
illustrated in the table in our written comments.

The Trade Representative determined that China conducts and supports unauthorized intrusions into and theft from U.S. companies' computer networks to access their sensitive commercial information and trade secrets. U.S. Steel itself has been targeted by cyber hacking attacks.

In May 2014, the U.S. Department of
Justice announced the indictment of five Chinese
military officials from the intelligence
component of China's PLA for cyber intrusions and
economic espionage directed against U.S. firms
including U.S. Steel.

A separate incident resulted in the theft of highly sensitive commercial secrets regarding U.S. Steel's development of advanced high-strength steels.

These cyber thefts are part of a larger program by the government to China to leverage all resources to achieve technological

breakthroughs in key areas, promote import substitution, rely on Chinese products to meet growing demand in China, and promote Chinese industries to dominate the home and global markets.

Steel and many of the sectors it
serves are among the 11 sectors that the
government of China identified as priorities for
international expansion in May 2015. State-owned
enterprises are also responsible for many of the
largest overseas transactions.

For these and other reasons, the Trade
Representative proposed imposing an additional 25
percent duty on products imported from China
under certain eight-digit subheadings.

U.S. Steel has supported the Section 301 investigation since its initiation and encourages the administration to take strong action to remedy the government of China's unfair practices, including the cyber intrusions into U.S. commercial networks that have directly impacted U.S. Steel.

Thus, U.S. Steel greatly appreciates the Trade Representative's decision to include various steel products, including certain tin mill products on the list of proposed products. As the nation's largest producer of tin mill products, we deserve Section 301 action for several reasons.

The Section 301 action is intended to complement existing trade remedies. Due to surging imports of tin mill products, including from China, however, the domestic industry has massive unused capacity. This industry is near the top of the steel value chain involving high levels of technical know-how to produce.

High levels of aggressively low-priced imports and massive unused capacity complicate important efforts to further develop domestic capacity for additional advanced tin mill products.

To provide the intended relief and avoid circumvention of the Section 301 action, the administration needs to update the proposed

1 Section 301 list, which in its current form 2 inadvertently omits two tariff subheadings that cover sizable imports of tin mill products from 3 4 China. 5 Including these two additional subheadings will provide more relief to U.S. 6 7 commerce as well as more leverage to address the 8 Chinese government's unfair trade practices. 9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and for your attention to this 10 matter. I look forward to answering your 11 12 questions. 13 MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Kopf. Our 14 next witness is Jeffrey Sterner with High 15 Industries Incorporated. Mr. Sterner, you have 16 five minutes. 17 MR. STERNER: My name is Jeff Sterner 18 and I am the President and Chief Operating 19 Officer -20 MR. BISHOP: Pull your mic closer if 21 you would, please. 22 MR. STERNER: Okay, thank you. Мy

name is Jeff Sterner and I'm the President and Chief Operating Officer of High Industries based on Lancaster, Pennsylvania. High is one of the largest fabricators of steel bridges in the United States and is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Steel Construction.

I'm here to request that the administration add the principal HTS codes for fabricated structural steel, 730810 and 730890 to the Section 301 tariff list.

Steel assemblies that fall under these two codes represented \$831 million of imports in 2017 or nearly two percent of the Section 301 target value. Adding these codes is critically important because the U.S. structural steel supply chain currently suffers from the effects of unfair Chinese industrial policies related to steel production and fabrication.

Because our nation has ample domestic capacity to meet the nation's demand for fabricated structural steel, including fabricated

structural steel in the 301 tariff list would cause minimal consumer impact and no greater disruption to the U.S. economy than the tariffs already applied to imported mill steel under Section 232 and various other trade orders.

The tariffs would also have little impact on U.S. consumers because fabricated structural steel is not a consumer-oriented product.

Structural steel fabricators are the manufacturers in the supply chain who cut, drill, bolt, and weld the steel shapes and plates produced by steel mills to create the actual bridges, buildings, and infrastructure projects that use structural steel.

While major steel projects have historically been fabricated in American plants, our trade policies have made the American construction market a rich target for foreign steel interests. They have expanded from just exporting mill steel to exporting fabricated steel to evade and dilute the effect of tariffs.

In the past five years, imported fabricated structural steel has increased by 136 percent, far exceeding the growth of the U.S. construction market. The U.S. structural steel fabrication industry is running at a 63 percent capacity utilization rate.

There is nearly four million tons of excess capacity in place to meet current domestic demand for fabricated structural steel. In fact, there is enough capacity to meet any increase in demand that results from additional investment in infrastructure projects and the projected increases in private construction activity.

Structural steel is the backbone of our nation's infrastructure system. It includes buildings, bridges, power, water, and other public projects.

By excluding tariffs on fabricated structural steel under the Section 232 order, a major portion of the structural steel supply chain was left unprotected allowing China to circumvent the mill steel tariffs.

Including fabricated steel assemblies in any action taken under Section 301 would close the 232 circumvention loophole and protect U.S. businesses in the design and construction industries.

The value of the current list of products benefitting from Chinese industrial policies is roughly \$50 billion. In 2017, nearly 500,000 tons of fabricated structural steel were imported into the United States from China valued by U.S. Customs at over \$831 million.

AISC believes these import values are very conservative because they do not take into account fabricated steel that is rolled in China and then transshipped into the United States through other countries that are not subject to the tariffs.

The Section 301 schedule already includes 132 HTS codes related to steel, many of which represent products used in the construction industry. However, it does not close the circumvention loophole left open by Section 232

because it does not currently include the codes for fabricated steel assemblies.

and and radius and radius already in the proposed Section 301 schedule in addition to those in the Section 232 order. It will add the real teeth to the effort to curb China's policies and practices that adversely impact domestic steel fabrication and production. Thank you.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Sterner.

Our final witness on this panel is Thomas Fish of

Anvil International. Mr. Fish, you have five

minutes.

MR. FISH: Thank you to the Office of the United States Trade Representative and the Section 301 Committee for conducting a hearing on this important topic and for giving me the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Tom Fish. I'm the Chief
Executive Officer of Anvil International. Anvil
manufactures steel and iron products that connect

and hang pipe, including pipe fittings,
couplings, nipples, and hangers. We operate
eight U.S.-based manufacturing facilities located
in Alabama, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island,
Tennessee, and Texas, and we currently employ
1,500 people.

Anvil has been in the business of connecting and hanging pipe for over 165 years.

I have worked at Anvil or its predecessor companies for the last 35 years serving as its President and CEO for the last 17.

Over this 17-year time period, the footprint of U.S. manufacturing has decreased significantly. Many U.S.-based companies have either moved their manufacturing operations offshore or simply found foreign companies to manufacture their product for them.

Anvil has certainly had to react to this changing environment. We have consolidated manufacturing facilities as required and now offer both domestic and internationally sourced product. We are proud to point out that still 80

percent of what we sell today is domestically manufactured product.

Despite this fact, the demand for U.S.-based manufactured product is down about 60 percent since calendar year 2000, and the sale of similar Chinese product has skyrocketed.

percent on steel-based products from China presents yet another challenge for Anvil and other similar U.S. manufacturing companies. The U.S. cost to procure steel raw materials that go into making nipples, couplings, and hangers have already gone up by 25 percent in the first quarter of 2018 as a result of the new tariffs.

These raw material costs make up 50 to 60 percent of the total cost of our finished product. Chinese manufacturing companies have access to lower cost steel raw materials that are subsidized by their government.

As a result, we are seeing finished
Chinese nipples, couplings, and hangers being
sold in the U.S. for less than Anvil's variable

cost to manufacture the same product. There is no way that any U.S. producer, no matter how efficient or cost effective, that they can compete with this over the long run.

Anvil supports the Committee's proposed imposition of Section 301 tariffs, but we want to make sure it's done in a way that's not going to put the U.S. manufacturers like us in an even worse position.

I'm going to show you here some samples of our products, and I'm not going to stand up because I don't know how to move that microphone, but basically pipe threaded on the outside, nipples. This is 12 inches. If it were one inch longer, 13 inches, it would be pipe which would be subject to some of the tariffs that we have today.

Pipe couplings also, just a little different, threaded on the inside, and of course we have pipe hangers basically made from plate steel, stamped and assembled here in the U.S. in Tennessee for us.

So to summarize, our ability to compete with Chinese manufactured pipe nipples, couplings, and hangers is facing a significant challenge. We're being, in fact, squeezed at both ends. The Section 301 proposed tariffs will result in an increase, and already have, in our manufacturing costs.

At the same time, excluding the same Chinese manufactured products from the 301 tariffs will give the Chinese a further cost advantage and will incentivize them to shift their production downstream from pipe, which is subject to tariffs, to pipe nipples, couplings and hangers not subject to tariffs.

It is for these reasons that we ask you to consider including pipe nipples, pipe couplings, and pipe hangers on the list of products to which the Section 301 tariffs would apply. These products are included in the HTS subheadings identified in our written submission and they accounted for about \$542 million of imports from China in 2017.

A 25 percent tariff on these subheadings would go a long way to leveling the playing field and allowing Anvil to maintain its current market share and potentially to regain some of the market share it has lost to China over the past two decades.

Anvil also believes that including those tariff subheadings in the Section 301 list would not cause disproportionate harm to the U.S. interests. The consumers of these products are primarily commercial builders.

The cost of these products that we are asking to be included represent only a tiny fraction, less than one percent of a commercial building.

Moreover, Anvil is not operating anywhere near its manufacturing capacity and we could easily add a second or third shift without any additional capital.

Even if the 25 percent tariffs were imposed on Chinese nipples, couplings, and hangers, these Chinese products would still be

competitive in the U.S. market, the only 1 2 difference being that the competition would be on a more level playing field. 3 4 I thank you for your time and your 5 continued efforts on behalf of the interests of U.S. manufacturers and their workers. 6 7 MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Fish. Mr. 8 Chairman, that concludes direct testimony from 9 this panel. CHAIR BUSIS: Mr. Banker, did you in 10 11 your written comments or in your oral comments identify the HTS numbers of the fabricated steel 12 13 that you're interested in? 14 MR. BANKER: Yes, we did. 15 I'd first like to thank MR. McCARTIN: 16 all of the witnesses for coming to Washington and 17 sharing your information and your perspectives. 18 MR. BISHOP: Could you please identify 19 yourself for the court reporter? Thank you. 20 MR. McCARTIN: I'm Terry McCartin, 21 Acting Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for China Affairs. 22

MR. BISHOP: Thank you.

MR. McCARTIN: My question is for Mr. Fish. You proposed that we include on our tariff list three categories of pipe products that you manufacture. I have two questions. One, how are other manufacturers, U.S. manufacturers of those particular products, impacted, and do you anticipate that they would agree with your views?

My second question is can you elaborate a bit on the impact on U.S. consumers other than commercial builders?

MR. FISH: Okay, the first question,
I believe that other U.S. manufacturers of this
product would be impacted the same way we are.

It's going to cause an increase in their raw material costs, and so therefore, we would need, to maintain our profitability or be able to succeed, we would need to increase our prices, wherein the price of the product from China is not increasing at all. We have already seen that in the first quarter of this year.

As to the second question, say that -

can you give that to me again?

MR. McCARTIN: In your testimony, you mentioned that this would - putting the duties in place would not have a significant impact on your primary consumers who are commercial builders.

I'm just asking about other U.S. consumers of your products and how the tariffs might impact them.

MR. FISH: The other U.S. consumers would be impacted, that would be impacted are probably the consumers who purchase their products from either Home Depot, or Lowe's, or one of the do-it-yourself hardware situations.

The fact of the matter is those products, depending on what Home Depot and Lowe's would want to do, would ultimately probably increase as well, but a typical consumer going in to buy those products would buy one or two, and sometimes you buy two or three of different sizes because you don't know what you need.

The bottom line as it relates to that piece of the business is that we at Anvil used to

supply Home Depot and Lowe's. What happened was they took that business overseas and simply got a lower cost, but the price to the consumer never changed, so it's kind of an ironic situation that we have here.

One of my favorite things to do is to go into Home Depot and ask the manager of that aisle where the domestic product is. He has a very difficult time answering that question.

MR. McCARTIN: Thank you.

MS. SALZMAN: Rachel Salzman from the Department of Commerce. This is a question for Mr. Banker.

MR. BISHOP: Can you pull your mic a little closer, please?

MS. SALZMAN: Sorry, Rachel Salzman from the Department of Commerce. This is a question for Mr. Banker. I wanted to know approximately how long it would take you to ramp up capacity to meet the domestic demand of fabricated structural steel if that item is included on the tariff list?

1 MR. BANKER: We have the plant 2 capacity. It comes down to human capital to be able to ramp up and that does take time training 3 people that have left the industry, getting young 4 5 people interested in the industry, but we've done some very unique things with that. 6 In both Virginia and New Jersey, we've 7 8 gotten the Labor Departments there both involved 9 in funding training programs specific for blue collar labor in our industry, so we feel like we 10 could do that pretty rapidly. In six months to a 11 12 year, we could be at greater than full capacity. It would be helpful if 13 CHAIR BUSIS: 14 in your rebuttal testimony you also estimate how many additional jobs that would involve. 15 16 MR. BANKER: If we were to go and use 17 our full capacity, we could almost double our 18 work force from 550 to 1,100 employees. 19 MS. HOLMAN: Good afternoon. I'm Amy 20 Holman from the Department of State. 21 My question is for Mr. Sterner. 22 would be the impact on downstream industries in

your sector if tariffs were placed on fabricated structural steel? Thank you.

MR. STERNER: The bridge industry in the United States already is subject to the Buy-America Act so we do not pay any tariffs on the raw material that we purchase. However, there is an impact as the -- there's that blend of domestic and international product that comes into the United States and it has increased the price of steel plate which is our raw material at some level. It's now stabilized after some period of volatility with the new announcement of Section 232. So, we don't see any other further impacts of Section 301 in the bridge industry because we uniquely have the Buy-America Act in our FHWA regulations.

MS. HOLMAN: Thank you.

MR. AMDUR: I'm Alexander Amdur with the U.S. Customs Border Protection.

I have a question for Mr. Ahlin. So,

I realize that your company is the producer of

the guides in tooling for the nail and rivet

1	industry. I have a question about your
2	customers.
3	MR. AHLIN: Okay.
4	MR. AMDUR: You mentioned that there's
5	two American manufacturers of finished nails and
6	rivets.
7	MR. AHLIN: Yes.
8	MR. AMDUR: But if these items are
9	subject to increased tariffs, will there be
10	sufficient to domestic capacity to meet domestic
11	demands for these products.
12	MR. AHLIN: They're running at probably
13	about 15 to 20 percent capacity. I'll have to
14	ask them but they could really ramp up and they
15	have the manufacturing capabilities to do a large
16	quantity more daily. And we'll put that in the
17	rebuttal comments.
18	MR. AMDUR: Great. Thank you very
19	much.
20	MR. AHLIN: All right. Thanks.
21	MS. SALZMAN: I have a question for Mr.
22	De May. What would be the impact on downstream

industries be in your sector if tariffs were placed on tiny sheet piling and other large diameter pipe product?

MR. DE MAY: Well, I don't think there would be any impact on the projects themselves. So, we deliver to contractors who will immediately install the project -- the steel, the sheet piles and the pipe into projects like port construction, these kinds of things. And I think those jobs will be able to move forward. not a change. I think the change is that at least we'll have a level playing field. other words, we today can really just not compete for those numbers anymore and if we don't do so we will not be able to be there when we really are needed. And some of these things are really critical. There's really critical -- when I described in my testimony here an example of remediation site in Detroit. Well, these things can be really critical. It could be really contamination that we need to be able to -- and so that probably is something that we need to

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think about. But would the end market change for that, would it be impacted? I don't think they will be impacted. They are plenty of sources domestically. There's plenty of sources internationally but they're not acting the same way that China is.

MS. PETTIS: This is a question for Mr. Griggs. I'm Maureen Pettis from the Department of Labor.

Approximately how long would it take you to ramp up capacity to meet domestic demand if tariffs were placed on Chinese steel piling and other large diameter pipe projects.

MR. GRIGGS: Tomorrow. We are running at slower speeds. We're running 24 hours a day four days a week. We have the capacity to run two more days a week. We've just been devastated by the Chinese selling material at their cost.

And, you know, I would like to say this. This is what I've been told. On this 25 percent that we're talking about in the 232 I was told by my customers that Chinese suppliers representatives

said they would absorb that 25 percent today with not one effect on them. So, we're looking at when you talk about 25 percent that will not stop this and that's the reason that we need to keep looking and keep talking and discussing what's happening. So, we could make-- we could add 25 to 30 percent to our capacity as long as we can get hot rolled steel in a month.

MR. McCARTIN: Let me just ask one more follow-up question.

You mentioned in your testimony that you've been forced to cancel planned modernization and expansions. What would your plans be in that regard if these additional products were put on the tariff list?

MR. GRIGGS: We have done a -- two
years ago we had done a study for a cold form
sheet mill and the capital expenditure was too
much and with the foreign competition the numbers
just didn't look right. We had also wanted to
expand and put a hydro tester in and some other
things in our plant and it just didn't make

We continually -- you know, in my testimony for the 203 we lost the Holland Tunnel project. We have a transloading facility 70 miles from there. We ship from St. Louis on the We get a really wonderful rail rate from there. \$50 a ton and we lost that to parts of Chinese steel by 12 percent. So, there's just places. Last year we lost \$35 million in about a hand full of projects that would have had us at capacity. Okay. We did not bonus out last year to share the 20 percent that I said that I told you that we share with our employees. We're an open book management. We haven't done that over the last several years just because of the competition on the pricing.

One thing that everybody needs to understand, even if they don't get the order what they do is they force your customer to leverage that price against you. So, what we see is reduced margins and so even if they give us the order we still have to match those prices. So, whether the foreign steel gets it or not just

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them being in the marketplace with those 1 2 ridiculously low numbers force us to be at those bottom margins. 3 CHAIR BUSIS: Mr. Kopf, it would be 4 5 helpful if you could briefly describe to the committee what the end uses of the tin mill 6 7 products are that you covered in your testimony. MR. KOPF: Sure. Thank you for the 8 9 question. Rob Kopf with U.S. Steel. Most of the tin mill products that we 10 produce find their way into canned goods, largely 11 12 food canned goods. There are other applications 13 such as oil filters, window spacers, decorative 14 cans, those kinds of things that are also produced out of the products that we make. 15 16 MS. SALZMAN: Thank you, Mr. Kopf. Α 17 follow-up on that. 18 What would the estimated impact be on 19 U.S. consumers if a comprehensive list of tin 20 mill products were being included in this tariff 21 list? 22 MR. KOPF: Thank you for the question.

Rob Kopf with U.S. Steel.

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This market for tin mill products here in the United States is very competitive. There are very recent reports that you can see in the recent ITC Staff Report that this industry operated at less than 50 percent capacity utilization over the past couple of years. There is ample capacity in this country to produce much more product than we are producing today across the board at all producers and I believe that in all those cases we would be -- any incremental business that were to come our way we would be going at tooth and nail like we always do with our competitors. And the customers of our products are very shrewd buyers. I'm sure they would find a way to really have no impact on the price of tin plate that they would pay to us for any incremental volume that was coming our way. So, I don't believe there would be any impact at all.

MR. BISHOP: We thank this panel. You are free to go and we would invite our next panel

1	to please come forward and be seated.
2	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
3	went off the record at 12:52 p.m. and resumed at
4	12:55 p.m.)
5	MR. BISHOP: Before we begin this panel
6	I would invite the members of our next panel to
7	come sit in our reserved witness area. Thank
8	you.
9	If the room would please come to
LO	order.
L1	Our first witness on this panel is
L 2	Mary Buchzeiger of Lucerne International. Ms.
L3	Buchzeiger, you have five minutes.
L 4	MS. BUCHZEIGER: My name is Mary
L5	Buchzeiger and I'm the President and CEO of
L6	Lucerne International, a global automotive
L 7	supplier headquartered in Auburn Hills, Michigan.
L8	I'm a proud Republican and I thank you
L9	for the opportunity to participate in this public
20	comment period.
21	Lucerne is a supplier of cast, forged
22	and stamped components and assemblies to the

automotive and heavy truck industries. We are a growing company located in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

In 2008 when I took over the business our sales were under \$2 million and in 10 short years we've grown sales to over \$35 million. And with current contracts we'll be well over \$50 million next year.

Our workforce is just over 40 people with plans to expand by over 25 percent in the coming year, that is, unless Washington gets in my way.

The tariff proposed by President Trump would cripple my business and many like it in the Midwest. The beating heart of what often is called Trump Country would be stifled by the unintended consequences of these tariffs. I'm sorry if it sounds harsh but it's true. I'm fighting for the life of my company and the livelihood of my employees and I'm fighting to protect an intricate auto supply chain that creates hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs.

Among many other parts we produce all the hinges for the Jeep Wrangler. We've been producing the door and hood hinges since 2005.

We were recently awarded the Next Gen Contract and we have 28 parts in every four-door vehicle rolling off the assembly line in Toledo. This business amounts to roughly 30 million of annual revenue.

We won the contract because Lucerne is one of the only company in the world that produces Class A forgings. Our process combines the strength of forged steel and aluminum and the subtly of fine art to produce polished perfect hinges for the Wrangler's outer body. And we're damn proud of this work.

Overseas we have seven long-term strategic manufacturing partners where these hinges are manufactured. They are then shipped to my plant in Auburn Hills, inspected, repackaged and sent to another plant in Milan, Michigan, where they are assembled before finally being shipped to Toledo to be put on the Jeep.

That's the supply chain. Thousands of American jobs and billions of American dollars and now it's all in danger.

According to HGS Subheading 83021030-I inner seal aluminum or zinc hinges designed for motor vehicles, we could now be subject to an additional 25 percent duty. If that happens my plants in Asia will pass those costs on to me.

I'll attempt to pass the increased costs on to my customer but the customer will then seek other suppliers overseas because there is no capacity here in the U.S. to produce these parts and I can't swallow these costs. I don't have that kind of margin in this program. I will essentially be forced out of business.

Make no mistake, this duty aimed at Asian companies is effectively a 25 percent tax on my company. More than a dollar out of every 2,000 of this proposal has a direct effect on my small woman-owned business in Michigan. And I resent it. I'm angry. I'm frustrated and honestly I'm scared. I'm scared that my

President is about to make a terrible mistake.

Scared for my employees who love their jobs, who make good money, who get their tuitions paid should they choose to further their schooling.

Scared for my community and my country which is about to be blind-sided by a bad policy forged with best intentions.

I agree with the President and I think he's right. The trade deficit needs to be tamed. But, please, not this way. Not on the backs of my employees and the future of our growing business. And I'll address the elephant in the room.

Yes, these products produced by

Lucerne are manufactured in Asia and frankly I'm

proud of that. I'm proud of the partnership

forged on years of travel to build a Michigan
based business and take it global. I'm the

mother of three young children. I spent so much

time on the road away from my kids, away from my

husband that sometimes I tell people my

forwarding address is Delta 9A.

I have sacrificed so much over the years and put in so much time, busted my butt to make this business what it is today and now it's all in jeopardy.

Would I like to move manufacturing back to the U.S.? Absolutely. As a matter of fact when this contract came up for renewal in 2015 we systematically looked at every forging plant in the United States and just recently went through this exercise again as a back-up plan. We have yet to find one manufacturing facility here that has the capacity to take on even one part number that we produce. Because of this prior to the proposed tariffs being announced, I started exploring opening my own forging plant in Flint, Michigan. I've got a strategic plan laid I'm in negotiations with investors and I'll be in talks with the local government soon, but this takes time. Much more time than allowed under the Administration's trade strategy. certainly won't be able to forge forward with these plans if I'm forced to hang an Out of

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Business sign on my front door.

I truly wonder. Does President Trump know that these tariffs threaten the livelihood of so many American businesses. I don't think he does. Because I know that my President cares and I've got to believe he'll change his mind, amend this policy, grant Lucerne an exclusion and help companies like ours make America great again.

Thank you.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Ms. Buchzeiger.

My next witness is Jonathan King of

TCL North America. Mr. King, you have five

minutes.

MR. KING: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Jonathan King and I'm the Vice President of Legal Affairs for TCL North America, the independently operating U.S. television subsidiary of TCL Corporation.

I'm here before you today to respectfully request that televisions be excluded from the proposed 25 percent tariff on products imported into the U.S. from China. Specifically,

HTS category number 8528.72.64.

TCL designs, manufactures, markets and sells TVs in the United States and is America's fastest growing TV brand. TCL is fully licensed for all essential intellectual property, creates jobs and opportunities, has a strong record of environmental sustainability and has earned a tremendous reputation among its U.S. technology partners and consumers.

TVs may have changed over the years since the introduction of over the air broadcasts and the advent of the Internet but it is still the cornerstone of the American home now more than ever.

The majority of the TVs sold in the U.S. originate from China, more than 18 million in 2017. TVs from China are predominantly high quality, feature rich affordable TVs that enable the American consumer to enjoy entertainment and obtain information at a far lower cost than TVs from Japan and Korea. They are also increasingly Smart TVs, employing emerging technologies,

systems, and intellectual property developed and owned by American companies and offered to consumers at a substantial value. In fact, studies show that TVs manufactured in China have an average unit value of just under \$200 while those from Japanese or Korean companies are far higher priced models. Directly stated consumers shopping for a TV manufacturer in China are not the same consumers buying Korean or Japanese TVs. Any tariff imposed on these goods will directly result in the unintended consequence of causing a significant reduction in the availability of affordable models, decreasing cost savings and choice for Americans. The application of these tariffs will result in a combined 28.9 percent when added to existing duties effectively increasing consumer prices for most models of TVs between \$50 and \$200, while reducing consumer demand. Affordable quality TVs for Americans will quickly become out of reach.

Although one of the alleged aims of the tariffs is to enable a return of

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manufacturing to America's shores, it is paramount to note that this is not true of the TV manufacturing sector. The notion that TV manufacturing can move from around here to there and quickly emerge in another country or here in the U.S. for that matter is simply not feasible. There is currently no TV manufacturing in the United States. Some companies taking advantage of State incentives while circumventing current tariffs either assemble or have announced plans to do so in America. I would caution you that assembling is not manufacturing. These companies offer a low number of assembly jobs with no technology or value added, and the very TVs they are assembling are actually manufactured in China by another company and shipped as a kit to be assembled together.

The manufacturing process is complex involving multi-billion dollar panel factories, technology licensing, quality and ethical raw material suppliers, research and development, environmental and sustainability concerns,

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vertical integration and complex logistics in addition to qualified and accredited pools of talent.

Another misconception is the notion that goods imported into the U.S. from China only benefit China and this could not be further from the truth in this industry. Although we build TVs in China we design them here, we support them here and we sell them here. Our jobs are here. Our technology partners including many of whom you'll see in the coming days are here. Our patent and technology licensors are here. The vast majority of the benefits are truly felt right here.

The negative impact of the imposition of tariffs will have long-term consequences causing disproportionate economic harm to millions of Americans while simultaneously disrupting markets injecting uncertainty into those markets and losing American technology market share.

A recent study shows that tariffs

targeting just the first fifty billion dollars in goods will cause the loss of nearly 134,000 jobs. The conclusion drawn from this study says that the proposed tariffs would and I quote "Have significant net negative impacts on the U.S. economy and U.S. workers. These impacts will be felt in nearly every sector in every U.S. State." In partnership with other American success stories employing hundreds of American workers we've been able to offer low cost quality feature rich TVs to fill the needs and wishes of millions of Americans. TCL has worked hard to achieve its market position. The tariffs could certainly present challenges to many companies that have worked so diligently to earn their brand recognition.

We are respectfully requesting that this honorable committee take a closer look at the TV market. When you see for yourself the potential consequences the tariffs will have, we firmly believe that you will see the wisdom of leaving these products off the tariff list. We

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also hope you'll take a closer look at our company to see what American workers can achieve when they dedicate themselves to caring not to just about quality products but also about our communities. We urge you to keep TVs off the tariff list.

Thank you for your time.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. King.

Our next witness is Aaron Lowe of the Auto Care Association. Mr. Lowe, you have five minutes.

MR. LOWE: Good afternoon. My name is
Aaron Lowe and I'm Senior Vice President for
Regulatory and Government Affairs for the Auto
Care Association.

The Auto Care Association is the voice of the \$381 billion auto care industry. Our nearly 3,000 member companies represent some 150,000 independent automotive businesses that manufacture, distribute and sell motor vehicle parts, accessories, tools, equipment, materials, and supplies, and perform vehicle services and

repairs.

Our industry represents a significant sector of the U.S. economy employing 4.6 million people or 3.2 percent of the workforce. Our members include businesses with global operations that depend on well-established integrated supply chains to increase competitiveness and product offerings for our member customers.

The Auto Care Association supports the Administration's efforts to address China's unfair trade policies that discriminate against and restrict U.S. commerce to force technology transfers, data localization and lack of enforcement. We continue to work with our members to address a number of intellectual property concerns as it is often a company's most valuable asset and competitive edge supporting jobs and driving economic growth. However, as a manufacturing hub and an important source of imports China is also a critical trading partner in our industry supply chain. We are concerned with the Administration's recent proposed action

to impose an additional duty of 25 percent on certain products imported from China. There are a number of automotive parts and components included on the proposed tariff list that although imported support U.S. jobs downstream throughout the U.S. supply chain.

Sourcing determinations are made months and years in advance leaving minimal adjustments to tariffs that force our members to modify their supply chains, find new sources for parts, face new capacity or quality issues and likely pass the increased costs downstream to the consumer.

All of these factors and disruptions could cause companies to be less competitive in the U.S. and in the global markets, even force them to cease operations. Additionally, China's announcement of retaliatory tariffs on goods in the U.S. is also of concern as China's large population and growing economy have made it the fastest growing market for U.S. exporters in the last decade and third largest market for U.S.

exports of auto parts in 2017.

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China's amount of vehicles and operation is growing the largest in the world with vehicles requiring repairs currently growing at a rate of double digits. Our members report that a number of products included in the tariff list cannot be sourced in the U.S. as there is no U.S.-based factories producing some of these products. At the same time minimal alternative sources exist as China is the primary supplier to Therefore, we do not see any benefits the world. to the U.S. economy or U.S.-based manufacturers in imposing tariffs on these products, as sourcing would just shift to low-cost countries would not alleviate the overall U.S. trade imbalance.

Our members also report that producing a number of products included on the tariff list would be extremely cost prohibitive if manufactured in the U.S. This is especially true for air conditioning systems in the aftermarket industry where the volume per part number is low

due to the number of unique parts covering every single make and model and vehicle on the road.

Imposing additional tariffs on these auto parts and components would increase the price substantially making it difficult for working Americans to afford cost-effective options when repairing their vehicles.

We urge the Administration to consider this severity of imposing tariffs on imported good and the unintended negative consequences not only in the U.S. automotive industry but also on the overall U.S. economy.

We hope the Administration will work toward a carefully constructed rules-based bilateral trading system where China abides by its commitments when it joined the World Trade Organization. To level the playing field and address market access barriers this framework should include enforceable, strong intellectual property rights protection system which would help create a more predictable and fair trade environment to U.S. companies doing business in

China.

In conclusion, we support the Administration's efforts to improve U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace but we hope that the Administration will continue engaging in high-level dialogue with China in addressing these issues, protect investments, facilitate trade, create competitive value chains that benefits the global growth of our members.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and are available to answer any questions you might have.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Lowe.

Our next witness is Mike Mohan of Best Buy Company, Incorporated.

Mr. Mohan, you have five minutes.

MR. MOHAN: Good afternoon, Chairman, and the USTR Committee.

I am Mike Mohan, the Senior Executive
Vice President and Chief Merchandising and
Marketing Officer of Best Buy, a U.S. retailer of
consumer electronics and related services

headquartered in Richfield, Minnesota. Best Buy is also a manufacturer of flat panel televisions under our private label Insignia brand.

On behalf of Best Buy and its 110,000 employees across all 50 States and right here in the District of Columbia I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

Best Buy respectfully requests that the USTR remove flat panel televisions classified under the U.S. harmonized tariff schedule subheading 8528.72.64 from the proposed list of products subject to the Section 301 tariffs.

Importantly, I want to emphasize that Best Buy is supportive of the goals of the USTR as set forth in its Section 301 report regarding force technology transfers in other unfair trade practices. However, today I'd like to outline three reasons why we are seeking exclusion of televisions from the list of proposed tariffs.

First, tariffs on flat panel
televisions will not be effective in addressing
the Chinese industrial policies identified in the

Section 301 Report. Simply put, targeting flat
panel televisions will not directly help change
these policies because these policies are not
seen in a Chinese flat panel TV industry.
Specifically, in the Section 301 Report the USTR
found that the policy of the Chinese government
is designed to promote Chinese companies to
leading roles in certain advanced technology
industries in part by replacing China's reliance
on imported technology in these industries.
Notably, flat panel televisions are not among the
list of advanced leap frog technologies that are
targeted by Chinese government policies. In
addition, foreign investment in development of
the industry generally is taking place free of
restrictions and compulsory technology transfer
policies. In fact, major Japanese, Korean and
Taiwanese companies have wholly owned
subsidiaries in China that develop and produce
flat panel TVs. Most companies instead have been
able to control the licensing and use of their
own technology under what Best Buy understands to

be entirely voluntary and on commercial terms.

Finally, Best Buy is not aware of any significant IP theft in the Chinese flat panel TV industry. In addition, targeting flat panel televisions will not indirectly affect China's policies because the overwhelming majority of TV panels sold in the United States are made in China. There are no near term alternative sources, meaning consumers will have no choice but to continuing purchasing TVs made from Chinese panels. Developing alternative sources would entail massive new investments that would take several years if ever to develop.

As a result, a 25 percent tariff will have no effect directly or indirectly on Chinese policy and only result in a significant disruption to the U.S. economy producing a result that runs counter to this data process employed by the USTR in choosing products to which the tariff would apply.

Second, tariffs will adversely affect Americans, namely, U.S. consumers and businesses.

In its written comments, Best Buy provides confidential data demonstrating the impact on the market, U.S. retailers and consumers. Given the lack of manufacturing alternatives mentioned before, Best Buy submits that imposing a tariff of 25 percent on goods that represent such a sizeable portion of the total U.S. market would amount towards effectively a significant new tax on U.S. consumers and businesses, raising retail prices as much as 23 percent according to a recent industry analysis. This increase in cost would fall primarily on the U.S. consumers who purchase smaller TV panels from China, televisions that are more accessible to American households with limited disposable income. our view, this is inconsistent with the USTR's stated intent to place tariffs on products that are not likely to cause disruptions to the U.S. economy and U.S. businesses and consumers.

Finally, we think there are more effective approaches. Rather than imposing tariffs on flat panel TVs, the Administration

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should take other more targeted approaches to address the important issues highlighted in the Section 301 report. We have outlined these suggested approaches more specifically in our confidential written comments.

In conclusion, Best Buy understands and supports the motivation for fair trade policies and a level playing field with China as pursued by the USTR. However, we respectfully request that flat panel televisions imported from China be removed from the Section 301 tariff list because it will not accomplish the desired purpose and instead will have negative unintended consequences on U.S. retailers like Best Buy, American workers and consumers.

Thank you for your consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Mohan.

Our next witness is Patrick Rogers of TECO-Westinghouse Motor Company. Mr. Rogers, you have five minutes.

MR. ROGERS: Good afternoon and thank

you for this opportunity.

My name is Patrick Rogers. I'm the President of TECO-Westinghouse Motor Company located in Round Rock, Texas.

At this facility which was once owned by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation,
Westinghouse built this facility in Round Rock in 1972. Westinghouse's name is significant to our lineage since both George Westinghouse and Nikola Tesla were accredited with inventing and commercializing the modern day poly phase induction motor in 1888.

Our parent company, TECO Electric and Machinery Company purchased the company in 1995 and currently employs 300 employees at this facility in Round Rock, Texas. This is three times the number of employees prior to TECO purchasing the company.

TECO is headquarters in Taipei,

Taiwan, but also has manufacturing facilities in

mainland China. Our factory in the United States

specializes in manufacturing large electric

machines as well as the distribution of lowvoltage motors, variable frequency drives for
industrial applications. We also operate our
service and repair group in this factory and
repair electric motors from all over the world.
Some of our team members are second-generation
employees that are productive citizens and
contributors to the local and national economy.

While we strongly support the

President and national security concerns we

kindly request a re-evaluation of electric motor

products identified in the Annex that will be

subject to potential tariffs for products

originating from China. We do this for the

following reasons.

Number one. We seek free and fair trade due to globalization as an industry that has clear parameters. In the HTS listing some products of a similar class were omitted or lacking definition, thus, the tariff appears ambiguous.

Number two. Based on the current

global competitive landscape we believe there is no harm to American intellectual property rights, innovation or technology development for these specific products. Many of these products are off-the-shelf type and are shown in catalogs by many suppliers. Many of our products were designed in Taiwan and simply manufactured within China.

Number three. The industry is often deemed as mature and even a commodity product in many cases. Seeking the next lower cost region is always being explored by the global supply chain. While imposing tariffs on products manufactured in China appears to be a step in the right direction, it could serve to simply distribute the problem faced there to many other countries as companies realign their supply chains.

TECO-Westinghouse in Round Rock,

Texas, has invested with U.S. capital and

equipment in China for electric motor winding

parts. These electrical winding parts fall under

HTS 8501, 8502, 8503 and 8504 and such parts will be subject to the 25 percent taxation under Section 301 thereby hurting TECO-Westinghouse's ability to be competitive in the marketplace.

Number five. To protect the USA steel industry TECO can insure that TECO made in China products will not use steel from China. will provide certificate proof of using non-China steel from sources in Taiwan and Japan. United States operation had revenue totaling 206 million U.S. dollars in 2017 with 300 employees. Approximately 30 percent of our business is potentially impacted by the imposition of these tariffs on electric motors. In essence, 300 employees will not be required to account for the reduction of this business. Our latest estimation projects a reduction of approximately 100 employees as a result of this diminished business.

Customers will not purchase these specified products and items with a tariff included as the marketplace is very stiff in

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The end user customer will 1 competition. 2 continue to receive these motors from other lowcost countries. Prices will rise as competition 3 4 will be limited to fewer participants. 5 Unfortunately, the toll does not stop there. Many of these electric motors are sold by our 6 7 distributors partners throughout the United 8 States with inventory and support their local 9 industries. Many of them are privately owned 10 businesses. 11 After discussing our issue with 12 Representative John Carter's office we wanted to 13 show the impact of these tariffs on our business 14 here in the United States. We thank you for your 15 time and strongly request not to impose these 16 duties directly on the jobs of American workers. 17 Respectfully, Patrick Rogers, 18 President, TECO-Westinghouse Motor Company. 19 Thank you. 20 MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Rogers. Our next witness is Chas Smith of 21

Roku, Incorporated.

Mr. Smith, you have five minutes.

MR. SMITH: Good afternoon. My name is Chas Smith and I'm General Manager for Roku TV and Players. On behalf of Roku and our 800 U.S. employees, thank you for the opportunity to attend today.

Roku holds over 55 patents and has pioneered streaming to the television. Using one of our products, almost 21 million customers globally, the vast majority of whom are here in the United States, choose from over 6,000 content channels and millions of hours of On Demand programming from partners like Netflix, Hulu, PBS and ESPN. Roku users can also choose from a variety of specialized channels that would otherwise be unavailable due to the way that cable TV is packaged.

For example, we offer hundreds of religious and education channels that are not generally available on cable. We are an American company. The vast majority of our employees are in the United States. And the vast majority of

those employees are in the high value added parts of our business. This includes engineering and product development as well as maintenance of state of the art servers and databases are built specifically to support our business.

Roku has grown exponentially in recent years from 500 employees at the end of 2016 to over 900 today. And approximately 800 here in the United States.

I'm here today to talk about our Smart TVs, what we call Roku TVs and the fact that the Section 301 tariffs could cover these products and explain if it did what the detrimental impact that could have on Roku and our U.S. workforce.

First of all, what is a Roku TV?

Starting in 2014 we began to license our proprietary operating system to various TV manufacturers including companies that manufacture in China. Roku licensees integrate the operating system into their TVs and pay us for that intellectual property. In a nutshell, Roku intellectual property is what makes the TV

Smart. And that intellectual property also opens up the TV for additional U.S. business for Roku.

These TVs are co-marketed and sold using the Roku
TV name.

In just three short years we made immense progress. In the first quarter of this year approximately one in every four Smart TVs sold in the United States was a Roku TV. Roku TVs are a vital part of our business and the extension of vital part of keeping Roku the innovative leader in streaming technologies.

Sales of Roku TVs generate licensing revenue for Roku but they also create a pool of new customers for Roku's platform business.

A growing active user base is
extremely important to Roku. With our platform
business the channels that are accessed through
our operating system will generate significant -will share revenues with Roku. Will also
generate significant advertising content
distribution and promotion revenue from our
platform. This revenue increases as our active

user base increases. Hence, the importance of our fast-growing Roku TV business.

I'd also like to note that we see no valid reason to include Roku TVs on the list of product subject to Section 301. We have agreements with the manufacturers that protect our intellectual property and can happily report that those business arrangements are working well and our closed proprietary system does not allow anyone to access our source code without our permission.

If the tariffs resulted in higher price points for Roku TVs and this resulted in fewer TVs being sold it could have a negative impact on our business, potentially stifling our ability to innovate. In short, Section 301 tariffs could undermine Roku's ability to maintain American leadership in revolutionizing the TV experience. We ask that Roku TVs be excluded from the list of products subject to Section 301 tariffs.

Thank you. And I'll be happy to

answer questions later.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

Our final witness on this panel is Bill Fath of the Weir Slurry Group.

Mr. Fath, you have five minutes.

MR. FATH: Committee Chairman Busis and distinguished members of the Section 301

Committee, my name is Bill Fath and it is my privilege to appear today on behalf of several

U.S. companies that provide products and services to oil and gas companies, mining companies and producers of raw materials in all 50 States in the United States.

Those companies are Weir Minerals
where I'm the Managing Director, Trio Engineered
Product, SPM Flow Control, Seaboard
International. These American companies are all
affiliated with the Weir Group, a global
industrial group that has grown from a small
engineering firm founded in Glasgow, Scotland, in
1871. I'm here to explain why four specific
categories of parts should be removed from the

list of products subject to the additional duties proposed in the Trade Representatives' Notice.

Those parts are specifically identified in our written comments but in general they serve two main functions. Pump parts and valve parts that the Weir companies use to custom build machines and systems critical to U.S. oil and gas and mining projects and grinding and sorting machine that the Weir companies use in developing systems to extract ores and minerals from mined rocks and to produce the aggregate use throughout the building and construction trades.

In deciding whether to impose new tariffs on pumping-related parts and grinding-related machines there are two questions that should be asked. The first question is, will the new tariffs have a disproportionate impact on the U.S. economy? We believe the answer to that question is yes. The second question is, will the new tariffs be effective in persuading China to stop its discriminatory trade practices with respect to U.S. technology and intellectual

property? We believe the answer to that question is no.

Before I discuss why the new tariffs would not deter Chinese misconduct and would do disproportionate harm to the U.S. economy I'd like to tell you a little bit about the Weir Group, our business model and our long history of creating desirable engineering and manufacturing jobs in the United States.

We engineer and manufacture sophisticated equipment in the United States. We design and build both high pressure fracking pumps that may weigh more than 10 tons and slurry pumps that weigh more than 20. As part of the process we import low technology component parts from China and other countries. Our business is organized so that the valuable engineering projects and jobs stay in the United States while low technology parts, machines and components are in some cases sourced from countries with less qualified labor and industrial markets. By diversifying our sourcing this way we are able to

provide the best products at the best price for our mining and oil and gas customers throughout the world.

We have more than 60 facilities in 20 states. We are proud of the fact that we provide high-quality jobs for thousands of highly skilled people in the United States. We believe that keeping those high-quality jobs in the United States is good for our employees, good for our companies and good for the customers we serve.

We think that last category is especially important because companies we serve are among the most critical industry sectors in the U.S. economy. Driving up the costs of our products would hurt these sectors. We believe this would cause disproportionate harm to the U.S. economy. Weir products are made of steel and aluminum. Since the introduction of the duties on these materials as a result of the Section 232 investigation we have seen our costs rise. The additional duties proposed by the Section 301 notice would impose yet another price

increase on our operations.

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As these costs are increasing we are seeing a contraction in our markets as a result of sanctions that have been imposed by the United States and Russian and certain Russian oligarchs. In our industry changing from a Chinese components suppliers to some other source is much easier said than done. We believe it would take at a minimum 12 to 18 months to change over. would have to identify and qualify new suppliers, relocate tooling or invest in new tooling and move production operations. Because we cannot change suppliers quickly or cheaply we believe the cost of the products that we design and build in the United States will have to go up. economic sectors that will have to pay those increased costs are at the foundation of the U.S. economy. Our customers supply the raw materials for the production of energy, steel, aluminum and other metals, aggregates, fertilizer and other building blocks of the economy. It is these industries that will ultimately pay the increased

costs associated with the proposed duties. 1 2 The pumping, grinding and sorting parts that Weir imports are low technology parts. 3 They are not high tech equipment, information 4 5 technology or valuable intellectual property. American engineers and skilled laborers use these 6 7 low tech parts to build custom design highly engineered systems in the United States. 8 9 Imposing new duties on Weir's imports is not part of the solution. Made in China 2025 10 11 identified 10 favored economic sectors. Weir's 12 imports are not among those sectors. Driving up 13 the cost of oil and gas production, coal mining, 14 steel production, infrastructure repair and development in the United States will have no

> Thank you very much for your attention. I look forward to any questions.

meaningful effect on Made in China 2025.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Fath.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes direct testimony from this panel.

MS. HOWE: Julia Howe from USTR's China

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Office.

The first question is for Mr. Lowe.

Can you estimate the price impact to aftermarket consumers if your members needed to source product outside of China and if these products are not currently produced domestically do you expect the production to shift back to the United States and, if not, what country is most like to replace imports from China?

MR. LOWE: Well, it's a broad question because I think every component is different so there would probably be different sourcing. We expect that if the part -- a lot of the parts, like the air conditioning parts that we talked about, there's really no other place in the world but China right now that are sourcing those components. And so likely in the short term those prices will just go up for the consumer. The amount is unclear but most of the price will probably be transferred to the consumer.

What country, I couldn't answer that question at this point. I would have to go back

to my numbers and look at that.

MR. LOWE: Is that something you want to submit later in written comments that would be helpful.

MS. HOWE: Sure.

MR. LOWE: Thanks.

CHAIR BUSIS: A follow-up question, Mr.

Lowe. You mentioned that there was a low volume in some of these air conditioning parts and thus that China was the best source. Is there some specific structural advantage China has that can produce low volume parts because low volume parts have to be produced somewhere. So, what is it about China that makes low volume parts the only source?

MR. LOWE: Well, I think the labor rates are lower in China and so to bring them back here, to bring all, you know, it would take years to have the machinery and I don't think that's what would happen. I think either it would get sourced elsewhere or the costs would just be absorbed by the consumer. But I think

what I'm saying is, the volume, you know, there's so many different components, different makes and models that there's not one mass, you know, part that can get produced across vehicle lines. They have produced multiple makes and models of parts. So, that's why it's very cost prohibitive in the U.S. at this point. It doesn't pay to build that kind of -- you're not going to have that kind of labor here in the U.S. at this point. We don't see that changing.

MR. SULBY: Ari Sulby from the State Department's Trade Office.

My question is for Mr. Mohan. Does

Best Buy import flat screen televisions produced
in any other countries? If Best Buy were to
develop alternate sources for specific flat panel
television that they are requesting to remove
where would these sources most likely be located?

MR. MOHAN: Thank you for the question.

Chairman and Committee Members, the vast majority

of the TVs we import directly do come from China.

As stated by another panel member I think it's

important to give a little context on the U.S. television industry. There is no manufacturing capabilities today and in the near term available to actually build TVs in the United States. The only thing that exists currently is a small assembly facility that will be able at capacity if it runs at capacity to build and produce less than three million televisions. The U.S. demand on an annual basis is in excess of 35 million TVs.

The predominance of TVs we're talking about from China fall into the 30 inch to 46 inch size segment. And China is simply the only place that has the capacity to assembly those TVs and have us import them whether they're under our brand or somebody else's.

I'm answering your question by saying there are no other alternative places to store

TVs from. While there is assembly in Mexico,

it's for a different size TV and the ability for them to scale the size for us to allow import doesn't exist. So, the vast majority of our TVs

come from China with a small percentage we 1 2 directly import from Mexico. CHAIR BUSIS: Ms. Buchzeiger, you had 3 4 mentioned that you had been considering opening a 5 forging plant in I think Michigan. 6 MS. BUCHZEIGER: Yes. 7 CHAIR BUSIS: Would there be government policies -- Federal government policies that 8 9 could encourage that kind of investment? MS. BUCHZEIGER: Right now actually 10 we're looking into that and working with a couple 11 12 of different investment firms and we are looking 13 into that. So far we've had some very hopeful, 14 yeses from the Government and we're excited about 15 But, again, unless I'm around --16 CHAIR BUSIS: When you say the 17 Government do you mean the Federal Government or 18 19 MS. BUCHZEIGER: Federal Government --20 I'm sorry, State -- at the State level. 21 CHAIR BUSIS: Okay. So, you're working with the State government? 22

1	MS. BUCHZEIGER: Correct.
2	CHAIR BUSIS: Okay. Got you. Thank
3	you.
4	MR. AMDUR: Alex Amdur from Customs
5	Border Protection, I have a couple more questions
6	for Ms. Buchzeiger.
7	CHAIR BUSIS: Hold your mic a little
8	closer please.
9	MR. AMDUR: Okay. Alex Amdur from
10	Customs Border Protection. A couple more
11	question for Ms. Buchzeiger.
12	So, your testimony mentions plants in
13	Asia. Are there other Asian countries besides
14	China that you source from?
15	MS. BUCHZEIGER: No. Taiwan and China
16	are where we produce the bulk of the parts that
17	we import right now.
18	MR. AMDUR: Okay. So, you also produce
19	source products from Taiwan as well?
20	MS. BUCHZEIGER: Taiwan and China, yes.
21	MR. AMDUR: Okay.
22	MS. BUCHZEIGER: Which I'm assuming

Taiwan is covered under this proposal as well. 1 2 MR. AMDUR: And I'll just have a question, you specified one HTS category in your 3 4 testimony for certain types of hinges. MS. BUCHZEIGER: Yes. 5 MR. AMDUR: Who are the other major 6 7 U.S. and foreign producers for this product? 8 MS. BUCHZEIGER: I'm working very 9 closely with NEMA right now as well and I was inquiring with them who the other players would 10 11 be and that's right now the other people that 12 import under this code are an after-market 13 company. But there's other companies such as 14 Magna, MultiMaddock and Ed Shaw that also produce these parts globally and import as well. 15 16 MR. AMDUR: And what about in the United States? Production in the United States? 17 18 MS. BUCHZEIGER: In the United States I 19 am not aware of any forging facility that makes 20 any door hinges anywhere in the United States. 21 And, again, we went through systematically to look for capacity to do just that and we found 22

1	nothing.
2	MR. AMDUR: Okay, thank you.
3	CHAIR BUSIS: Ms. Buchzeiger, it would
4	helpful is you in your additional comments could
5	break down the extent you purchase from Taiwan
6	versus from China generally because they're
7	separate custom territories.
8	MS. BUCHZEIGER: Okay. That's
9	wonderful. I will do that in our written
LO	submission.
L1	CHAIR BUSIS: Great, thank you.
L2	MS. PETTIS: This is a question for
L3	Chas Smith of Roku.
L 4	I'm Maureen Pettis from Department of
L5	Labor.
L6	Does Roku license their operating
L7	system to any TV manufacturers outside of China
L8	and where do the TVs that Roku competes with such
L9	as Samsung, LG, and Vizio import TVs into the
20	United States. Where to their TVs come from?
21	MR. SMITH: Thanks for the question.
22	Yes, we license to multiple brands. We have 10

brands currently selling Roku TVs. 1 There are 2 Chinese companies in that. There are also companies from Japan, from the U.S. Actually, 3 several of the brands we work with are right here 4 5 in the U.S. 6 MS. PETTIS: Okay. 7 MR. SMITH: And the TV manufacturers 8 that you mentioned like Samsung, I believe they 9 build TVs in Korea but they also build TVs in China. And I'm sure other countries but I don't 10 11 have the complete details of that. 12 MS. PETTIS: Thank you. 13 MR. SMITH: Okay. 14 MR. SULBY: Thank you, my next question is for Mr. King. 15 16 In your testimony you indicate that 17 "TCL designs, manufactures, markets and sells TVs 18 in the United States." Can you provide details 19 about the U.S. manufacturing operations, how many 20 U.S. employees does TCL have and how many are 21 engaged in manufacturing?

MR. KING: So, when it comes to the

manufacturing side of it that's done in China.

The TVs are designed here. They are marketed here and sold here to U.S. consumers and the people that do the designing and the marketing are Americans working here in America. The TVs themselves are manufactured in China just like most TVs that come into this country, especially, TVs at that particular price point.

honestly, I'd have to ask, say 80 people in one building, another 100 in another building. But we're growing. We are America's fastest growing TV brand. We've doubled our sales just about here over a year. And that has resulted in significant hiring. As a matter of fact, we just relocated our headquarters to a building three times the size of its former building just to accommodate the growth we have. So, we are, in essence, a success story employing Americans and growing at a substantial rate.

MS. SALZMAN: Question for Mr. Rogers.

Of the products that you discussed in

your testimony has TECO-Westinghouse ever sourced these products from within the United States and alternatively or in addition do you ever source these parts from outside of China?

MR. ROGERS: Yes, thank you. Just a quick update I think would be that we have separate the electric motor business that I discussed in my testimony into very large custom machines, several tons, 85,000 horsepower type material that we manufacture in the United States in Round Rock, Texas.

The other portion of my testimony is regarding small, what we call NEMA frame motors which are made generally up to about 500, 600, 700 horsepower. Those machines are built overseas. Most of my competitors manufacture those machines overseas today. They manufacture them in other countries other than China. So, basically, I import those products into my warehouses. I distribute them through our supply chain to our independent distributors throughout the United States and they sell to their local

1 industries. Okay. I'm not sure I answered your 2 question. MS. SALZMAN: No, it's fine. 3 Thank 4 you. CHAIR BUSIS: So, you used Chinese 5 produced parts in a larger motor, correct? 6 7 MR. ROGERS: We use China -- yes. CHAIR BUSIS: A larger pump, right? 8 9 MR. ROGERS: Yes. In our motors as in my testimony I did say that we did invest capital 10 as well as equipment into a facility in China 11 12 that manufactures mining parts, basically coils 13 for large electric motors that we bring over. 14 And in the 301 docket there is broken down by parts obviously with stators and rotors and 15 16 things like that so it's quite encompassing, yes. 17 We would source that from China and/or from other 18 factories. 19 CHAIR BUSIS: Would it be possible for 20 your to estimate, probably this is confidential 21 but for your rebuttal submission. When you sell

a pump that has a Chinese winding in it what the

percentage of the value is of --1 2 MR. ROGERS: As the --CHAIR BUSIS: -- as the U.S. content 3 4 versus the Chinese content? MR. ROGERS: Sure. It's probably 40 5 percent more for me to manufacture that piece of 6 7 equipment in the United States. 8 CHAIR BUSIS: I want to ask you this. 9 The percentage in the final value of the pump 10 what's the percentage of Chinese content versus 11 what you're currently doing it. And, again, that 12 may be confidential but --13 MR. ROGERS: No, it's not confidential. 14 It depends on the type of product and the requirements. We can bring in parts and pieces 15 16 and manufacture complete motors within the United 17 States in Round Rock. We can bring in two major components to put them together, finish 18 19 modifications, assemble and do the testing or we 20 can build the complete product overseas. 21 there is some flexibility there depending on the 22 competitiveness of the operation as well as the

customer. Some customers want U.S. built.

MS. HOWE: My question is for Mr. Fath.

Has Weir Slurry Group ever sourced
these parts and components domestically or
outside of China and, if so, where? And also in
your post-hearing submission could you specify
the exact subheadings that you would like removed
from the list?

MR. FATH: Absolutely, we will specify in the written report.

Yes, I would say at one point in time, you know, whether it's Weir, Weir Slurry or SPM or Trio. Well, not Trio is an exception. There probably was sourcing in the U.S. for a lot of these components, but I've been in the pump and valve industry now for 20 plus years and I can tell you during that time the industry shifted a lot of the lower technology parts off shore and concentrated on what we could put in the factories here that were, you know, harder to duplicate, if you will, because we're competing globally. So, the capability and those supply

chains, the tooling patterns, for example, on 1 2 this they don't exist anymore domestically in most of our business units. 3 MS. HOWE: And what about other 4 5 countries outside of China? MR. FATH: Outside of China, yes. 6 7 source not those particular parts. Usually with 8 the cost of tooling we're investing quite a bit 9 with the foundries because there's fair amount of development of those suppliers to provide parts 10 11 to the quality that we need in our equipment that 12 we're building. Weir also has plants in China 13 that we'll bring over equipment or components 14 with as well that are impacted by this tariff as well. 15 16 CHAIR BUSIS: Mr. Bishop, I think we've 17 finished our questions for this panel. Thank 18 you. 19 MR. BISHOP: We release this panel with 20 our thanks. And we --21 CHAIR BUSIS: I just have a -- for the next panel my colleague, Mr. Tsao will be 22

chairing the meeting for the remainder of the 1 2 three panels. Thank you. MR. BISHOP: If our panel that is 3 4 seated here would please come forward and be 5 seated. And the following panel please come forward and be seated in the waiting area. 6 We're going to go ahead take a ten-7 8 minute break before we hear direct testimony from 9 this panel. We stand in recess until five minutes to two. 10 11 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter 12 went off the record at 1:44 p.m. and resumed at 13 1:54 p.m.) 14 CHAIR TSAO: Will the room please come 15 to order. 16 Okay. Good afternoon. My name is Arthur Tsao. And I'm an Assistant General 17 18 Counsel with the Office of General Counsel at 19 USTR. 20 At this time we have some new members 21 on our Committee members. And I will ask them to introduce themselves. 22

1	MS. KORKOS: Sorry. Nicole Korkos,
2	Counsel of Economic Advisors.
3	MR. SULBY: Ari Sulby, Department of
4	State.
5	MS. HOWE: Julia Howe, U.S. Trade
6	Representative's Office.
7	MR. MITCHELL: Stevan Mitchell,
8	International Trade Administration, Department of
9	Commerce.
10	MS. PETTIS: Maureen Pettis,
11	Department of Labor.
12	MR. AMDUR: Alexander Amdur, Customs
13	and Border Protection.
14	CHAIR TSAO: Great. Thank you. And
15	Mr. Bishop, we're ready to begin.
16	MR. BISHOP: Our first speaker on this
17	Panel is Mike Branson of Rheem Manufacturing
18	Company Air Condition Division Operations.
19	Mr. Branson, you have five minutes.
20	MR. BRANSON: Thank you to the Section
21	301 Committee and USTR for arranging this
22	important hearing. And for giving me the

opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Mike Branson. I'm the

Executive Vice President and General Manager for
the Air Conditioning Division Operations at Rheem

Manufacturing Company.

Rheem is a market leader in heating, cooling, water heating, pool heaters, and commercial refrigeration products with manufacturing, operations, and markets in the United States and around the world.

We are headquartered in Atlanta,
Georgia. And we have U.S. Manufacturing
facilities in Alabama, Arkansas, California,
Connecticut, and North Carolina.

Rheem currently employs approximately 3200 people in the United States. Which includes over 1700 production workers.

We continue to invest heavily in our U.S. manufacturing operations. And in fact we just recently launched a new air conditioning platform and invested tens of millions of dollars into our Fort Smith, Arkansas facility that

originally opened in 1970.

I worked in the HVAC industry for over two decades after serving as an officer in the U.S. Navy. And I've been with Rheem since 2010.

The market has certainly evolved over this time. When I got into this market, Chinese manufacturers were not significant players in the ducted type of air conditioning equipment that is used almost exclusively in the North American Market.

However, in recent years, we've observed certain Chinese manufacturers, strategically focusing on products for this market. And making serious inroads through extremely aggressive pricing.

The intentions of these manufacturers has clearly been to displace U.S. based companies in this industry. This became personal to me just a few years ago when I was approached by a Chinese manufacturer that expressed an interest in making and branding Rheems' products for less than what it cost to make our own products in

America.

An executive from this Chinese-based company stated that it did not consider U.S. manufacturers to be competitors. But merely initial suppliers of a channel until they could introduce their own brands to displace the traditional U.S. brands in the market.

Without hesitation, we respectfully declined their terminal offer. We appreciate that the Section 301 measures are intended to support U.S. manufacturers.

The tariffs thus should not be structured in a way that could further damage the domestic air conditioning industry. And that is why I've requested to speak with you today.

There's a problem and an opportunity with the scope of coverage of the Section 301 members, at least as it has been proposed in the April announcement.

The preliminary list of products subject to 301 tariffs includes the inputs that go into making air conditioners, parts of the air

conditioners and various articles of steel and aluminum already appear on the list. But the list does not yet reflect any tariff's on finished good air manufactured in China.

Here's the concern. If the inputs are subject to tariffs, but the finished goods are not, it creates an incentive for Chinese manufacturers to shift more production downstream, from air conditioner parts to finished air conditioners, to avoid the tariffs.

This could create increased competition for our industry, while at the same time hampering our ability to compete. Because tariffs on our inputs increase our production costs even when we source domestically.

If our inputs are subject to tariffs, the finished air conditioners made by our Chinese competitors are not, air conditioners produced by Chinese manufactures would have a cost advantage. And there would be further disruption to Rheem and the remainder of the U.S. industry.

Accordingly, assuming parts of air

conditioners remain on the list, we request that finished air conditioners also be included on the list. The specific tariff items that should be added are referenced in our May 11 written submission.

Inclusion of these additional HTS codes on a section 301 tariff list would not cause disproportionate economic harm to U.S. interests.

With our recent capital investments in manufacturing operations, we have sufficient capacity to react to an increase in domestic demand. And other domestic and non-Chinese foreign suppliers of air conditioners also have capacity to meet demand.

I thank you for your time today. And for your continued efforts on behalf of the interests of U.S. manufacturers and their workers.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you Mr. Branson.

Our next witness is Robert Beckwith with Crosman

Corporation.

Mr. Beckwith, you have five minutes. 1 2 MR. BECKWITH: Thank you. And thank you very much for allowing me to speak with you 3 4 today. By way of background, Crosman 5 Corporation is a leading provider of air guns, 6 7 consumer optics, consumer lasers, and archery 8 products to the consumer market. 9 We are in fact, the only mass production airgun company in the world to 10 11 manufacture our products in the United States. 12 And have been doing so for almost 100 years. 13 Crosman's operations are in upstate 14 New York, employing over 280 people. Not in my testimony there, about 200 of those are in 15 16 manufacturing. 17 Additionally, we operate a foreign 18 trade zone in both of our upstate New York 19 locations. The establishment of the foreign 20 trade zone enabled us to have a cost structure 21 consistent with that of our foreign and foreign

22

source's competitors.

Therefore, we believe we have a unique perspective the Committee should hear. Our believe is that HTS Code 90131010, which is telescopic sites for rifles not designed for use with infrared light and to include that in Section 301 is inappropriate.

First it says that -- I read through the Federal Register, Volume 83, Number 67, it states that trade analysts from several U.S. government agencies identified products that benefit from Chinese industrial policies including Made in China 2025.

The list was refined by removing specific products identified by the analysts as likely to cause disruption in the U.S. economy. We do not believe the consumer scopes will benefit from any of the Chinese trade policies being discussed and being addressed by the regulations.

However, the inclusion of consumer scopes and the list of tariff increases will cause the disruption in the U.S. economy. Why is

that?

Because many of the items imported under that code are low to mid-end consumer scopes. That are generally not manufactured in the U.S.

There is no low to mid-end consumer scopes manufactured in the U.S. Only very high end scopes at high price points.

Therefore, the inclusion of this code will have a negative impact on the consumer.

Consumer scope production does not fall under the four acts, policies and practices under investigation described in supplementary implementation Chapter B.

Additionally, none of those products fall within any of the ten product codes listed under Made in China 2025. If the code is included, we'll respectfully request that there be an exemption allowed for the foreign trade zone.

Again, we are the only manufacturer -- mass produce air gun producer in the world, in

the U.S. We bring in scopes from China to put on our product.

Our competitors import a completed product with a scope on it at a much lower HTS code then the scope rate is. The foreign trade zone has allowed us to utilize the 3.9 percent rate for the imported product so we could be competitive with those bringing them in assembled, complete.

However, if we -- the regulations go through as proposed, our duty rate will effectively go from 3.9 percent on these scopes to 40 percent. Making us much more uncompetitive in the marketplace.

In conclusion, we think that the tariff increases will not accomplish the goals stated in the USTR 2018-05 will cause harm to both the U.S. consumer economy. And will result in the loss of U.S. jobs.

We will have no choice but to have to react to make our cost structure consistent with those of our competitors. And I welcome any

1	questions you've got.
2	MR. BISHOP: Thank you Mr. Beckwith.
3	Our next witness is Paul Czachor with American
4	Keg Company.
5	Mr. Czachor, you have five minutes.
6	MR. CZACHOR: Thank you for having me.
7	My name is Paul Czachor. I am the CEO of
8	American Keg Company.
9	American Keg Company is the last
10	remaining domestic supplier of stainless steel
11	kegs. We're requesting today that stainless
12	steel kegs be added to the 301 tariffs.
13	In addition to the summary, we've also
14	submitted business confidential information to go
15	along with this summary.
16	Kegs are stainless steel kegs are
17	primarily made of stainless steel. And the kegs
18	on this particular presentation, on that slide,
19	those are domestically produced kegs with 100
20	percent domestic steel from U.S. mills.
21	Currently, there are numerous sizes of
22	stainless steel kegs that are imported from China

with a zero percent tariff. We are requesting that the Office of the United States Trade Representative add stainless steel kegs to the 301 tariff with a 76 percent tariff.

The background is China supplies steel import kegs. And they make up approximately 43 percent of all the kegs sold in the market in 2017.

Which equates to approximately 40 million dollars. As stated earlier, there's only one domestic stainless steel keg manufacturer using domestic steel.

And without the ability to level the playing field, it is highly doubtful that this supplier or manufacturer will be in business past the end of the summer.

There are no specific HTS codes for stainless steel kegs. Most or all of the Chinese imported kegs are imported under HTS 7310.290050, 7310.10.001.

I would note that for those two categories, it was approximately 126 million

dollars for the entire Chinese import in those two categories. And kegs made up approximately 30 percent of that in 2017.

Moving forward, talking about the Chinese import injury. The domestic stainless steel keg industry is materially injured by the dumping and countervailing of Chinese stainless steel kegs.

These kegs are imported at a cost that is just a few dollars more than the cost of the raw materials, which is domestic stainless steel, to produce a keg in the use. This unfair pricing practice puts the price of a domestically produced keg as much as 50 to 76 percent higher than a Chinese import.

Chinese stainless steel kegs are manufactured using low-cost Chinese steel. And are subsidized. This has been well documented in many cases.

The most recent tariff of 25 percent on raw rolled stainless steel is driving up domestic stainless steel pricing. This is a key

point.

As our prices rise for domestically produced steel, these imported kegs are coming into the United States with zero percent tariff. So the price is continuing to increase for our production and to our customers, while imported kegs are coming in with zero percent tariff.

On the next slide you can see clearly the cost of the raw material for particular kegs on this slide are just a few dollars more than the raw material costs. It virtually makes it impossible for a domestic supplier to compete once you add in labor, rent, utilities, et cetera.

As stated earlier, an unfair practice
-- unfair practice that puts price of
domestically produced kegs as much as 50 to 76
percent compared to the Chinese imports.

The impact of putting tariffs on

Chinese imported stainless kegs, adding a

stainless steel keg to the 301 tariff would have
a neglectable to no impact on consumers. And a

non-material impact on the businesses that 1 2 purchase kegs. 301 tariffs would be effective in 3 4 eliminating China's bad practices while having no 5 economic harm to U.S. interests. It would 6 effectively allow the U.S. to bring back more 7 jobs and spur growth by allowing companies in the 8 U.S. to be competitive in making stainless steel 9 kegs. In conclusion, on behalf of American 10 11 Keg and its suppliers, we respectfully request 12 that the USTR implement a tariff of 76 percent on stainless steel keg imports from China. 13 14 Thank you. 15 Thank you Mr. Czachor. MR. BISHOP: 16 Our next witness is David Baer with Element 17 Electronics. 18 Mr. Baer, you have five minutes. 19 Thank you. On behalf of MR. BAER: Element Electronics and it's nearly 200 factory 20 21 workers in Winnsboro, South Carolina, thank you 22 for the opportunity to testify today.

Despite what you may have heard,

Element Electronics is the sole U.S. mass

producer of LCD televisions within the United

States. We're in the top five unit market share in the U.S. for TVs. And our factory is nowhere near its capacity.

Element Electronics supports free and fair trade that ensures a level playing field for American workers. Unfortunately, the current playing field is far from level.

Our current trade agreements provide significant advantages to imports over U.S. produced TVs. The normal duty rate on imports of finished good TVs is 3.9 percent.

The normal duty rate on imports of LCD panels, which is the critical component of a TV is 4.5 percent, a classic tariff inversion. To make matters worse, imports of finished TV through Mexico under NAFTA faces zero percent duty.

So why is Mexico relevant? TVs produced in Mexico are produced using Chinese

parts. And Mexico is simply a final assembly location for purposes of avoiding duties that American companies like Element pays.

As a result, U.S. duties incentivize moving TV production outside of the U.S. And favor Chinese and Mexican workers over U.S. workers.

The 301 has the potential to level the playing field for Element's U.S. work force and workers across America. Therefore, Element supports the inclusion of finished TVs in the scope of the 301. And also supports the exclusion of LCD panels used in the assembly of TVs from the list.

LCD panels are a critical input component necessary for the production of TVs in the U.S. And there's no U.S. production of these TV LCD panels.

The application of the 25 percent duty on finished TVs from China would address some of the tariff inversion issues. Over the impact of imports directly from China, they are not the

only problem to be addressed in order to increase U.S. production of TVs.

The 301 must have strong anticircumvention provisions to address evasion tactics that have already begun. Element has firsthand knowledge in the marketplace.

The Chinese producers have already begun to move components and subassemblies to places like Thailand, Vietnam, and Mexico for the sole purpose of evading any duties that may be imposed under 301.

This can be done quite easily given the rules of origin that normally apply to televisions. The 301 would be a toothless tiger without protections against these circumventions.

The administration could ensure an effective 301 remedy by imposing for purposes of a 301 duty requirement that all imported TVs classified under 8528.70 must undergo a tariff shift from any other tariff heading other then 9013.80 or 8529.

The application of this rule would

prevent Chinese producers from shifting production to other countries simply for the purpose of evading the 301 duties.

Recently, the National Retail

Federation and Consumer Technology Association

released a study arguing that inclusion of TVs

would have a negative impact on the US economy.

This analysis is fundamentally flawed because it

relies on false assumptions.

The study assumes that import TVs from China and Mexico are not substitutable. This is not true. The data that we provide in our written submission shows that 84 percent of all TVs imported from China and Mexico fall under the same four HTS lines.

Second, the study concludes that because the average cost of TVs from China are lower than the average cost of TVs from Mexico, they're not suitable alternatives. Again, this is a distortion of the facts.

The reason for the cost differences between China and Mexico are a function of

importers engineering the lowest duty cost as it relates to freight. So, small screen sizes equal a small duty and so they're shipped directly from China.

Large screen sizes, higher cost, much higher duty. So they flow through Mexico and get zero duty treatment under NAFTA.

Finally, claims that U.S. consumers will see a significant price increase for TVs as a result of the 301, are simply not supported by real world facts. Element's proof, we're currently sold throughout retail at a competitive price with imports.

So, the 301 presents an opportunity to level the playing field for Element's workers in South Carolina. And to do this, the 301 must do three things.

One, impose a 25 percent duty on imports of finished TVs on the list. Two, maintain the exclusion from the 301 duties of the LCD panels.

And finally, impose strong anti-

1	circumvention provisions to prevent Chinese
2	producers from evading the 301 duties simply by
3	moving final assembly to other Southeast Asian or
4	Mexico Southeast Asian countries or Mexico.
5	Thank you very much for your time.
6	And I'd be happy to answer any questions.
7	MR. BISHOP: Thank you Mr. Baer. Our
8	next witness is David Feniger with the American
9	Posts, LLC.
LO	Mr. Feniger, you have five minutes.
L1	MR. FENIGER: Good afternoon Chairman
L2	and distinguished members of Section 301
L3	MR. BISHOP: I need you to speak into
L 4	the microphone, please.
L5	MR. FENIGER: Oh, sorry.
L6	MR. BISHOP: Thank you.
L7	MR. FENIGER: Good afternoon Chairman
L8	and distinguished Members of Section 301
L9	Committee. My name is David Feniger. And I am
20	President of American Posts of Toledo, Ohio,
21	which manufactures steel posts for the commercial
22	and military market.

On behalf of my employees and their families, I am honored to have the opportunity to speak to you today. I've also submitted extended comments for the record.

I'm here today to respectfully request the addition of HTS Code 7326.90.8635 to the proposed Section 301 list. This HTS covers steel fence posts, including new posts we make, which are three to eight feet long steel posts for fencing and other farm and garden needs in the U.S.

We are also proud suppliers of steel U posts to the U.S. Department of Defense to meet worldwide military security requirements. Twenty years ago, four active U.S. companies were manufacturing steel U posts for the commercial market.

However, years of unfair Chinese trade practices have forced our U.S. competitors out of business, leaving American Post as the last standing American manufacturer. Today our only competition for commercial sales in the U.S., are

Chinese manufacturers, who possess 85 percent of the market.

We deeply appreciate what the

Committee and the Administration are doing to

ensure businesses like mine that they can compete

against China on a fair and level playing field

for the business of the American consumer. The

fact is, we're fighting to stay in business.

With only 15 percent of the market and our operations running at only 35 percent capacity, I do not see a clear path to avoid the fate of our former U.S. competitors if fair -- if unfair Chinese trade practices are allowed to continue without penalty.

To be clear, American Post strongly supports both Section 232 and Section 301 tariffs. But in their current form they have no impact on our Chinese competitors who are able to bypass the tariff rules.

Our steel U posts are manufactured by roll forming light gauge hot rolled steel, and applying a powder coated finish. This is the

same process our competitors use, but we use American made steel.

In fact, the steel in the U posts account for over 70 percent of the cost of the final product. The steel is not only on Section 232, it is also on the proposed Section 301 list.

Yet the finished product steel U post itself is not on either list. As a result, Chinese manufacturers can produce steel U posts in China, using Chinese steel for direct sale to the U.S. without penalty, again, despite the fact that 70 percent of the content of steel is subject to the tariff.

For further context, American Post specializes in providing a just in time delivery system for U.S. based customers. However, despite our low-cost business model, the Chinese competitors still hold 85 percent of the U.S. market.

This is largely due to lower production costs the Chinese competitors have. Specifically the cost of steel mill articles used

to manufacture steel U posts.

Chinese steel mills have historically benefitted from subsidies, preferential trade policies, unjustly low wages, and the avoidance of environmental and work force regulations, which have kept their steel prices artificially low.

This unfair advantage is not a new development. The issue was brought before the U.S. International Trade Commission in 2002, where the Commission ruled that the U.S. industry was materially injured by reason of less then fair value imports for steel U posts.

However, the duties were allowed to sunset in 2008. This already difficult market dynamic has been further compounded since the announcement of 232, which has caused the increase of over 25 percent on U.S. steel prices.

This has significantly increased the production costs, while our Chinese competitors' costs remain the same. A 25 percent tariff is needed to level the playing field.

The price chart in my confidential submission shows that a 25 percent tariff on Chinese manufacturers will allow us to maintain competitive pricing with minimal impact to the American consumers.

In fact, this action would finally give American Posts a level playing field to compete for the business of the nation's largest big box retailers, so that Americans can once again have a choice between buying American and buying Chinese. Orders from just one of the large big box retailers in the U.S., would result in the creation of at least 40 U.S. jobs.

In summary, China's unfair trade

practices and their ability to bypass steel

tariffs has created an unsustainable situation

for American Post. Both Section 232 and proposed

Section 301 included the hot rolled steel coils

used to manufacture U posts.

To be effective, the finished product
U posts made from the tariff steel must also be
added to Section 301 list. Failure to take

action will jeopardize the viability of our 1 2 company. On behalf of American Post, I deeply 3 4 appreciate your time and consideration of my 5 request. Thank you Mr. Feniger. 6 MR. BISHOP: 7 Our next witness is Chad Severson with 8 InSinkErator. 9 Mr. Severson, you have five minutes. Thank you. 10 MR. SEVERSON: 11 afternoon Mr. Tsao and Members of the Section 301 12 Subcommittee. 13 My name is Chad Severson. And I'm the 14 President of InSinkErator. Thank you for the 15 opportunity to appear before you today on behalf 16 of InSinkErator and our 1,400 -- I'm sorry, 1,342 17 employees in southeast Wisconsin who work at the 18 first and the only remaining U.S. manufacturer of 19 food waste disposers. 20 Let me give you a brief introduction 21 to my company. InSinkErator is celebrating its 22 80-year anniversary of manufacturing food waste

disposers here in the United States.

In fact 100 percent of our food waste disposer production comes from our two U.S. plants located in Racine and Kenosha, Wisconsin. Not only do we manufacture all our disposers in the United States, we source here as well.

For example, InSinkErator purchases tens of millions of dollars of U.S. steel every year. We are responsible for over 350 jobs at associated suppliers.

I am here today to request that food waste disposers entering the United States under HTS Code 8509.80.20 be included on the list of products subject to tariffs per the Section 301 investigation.

Inclusion of these products will help protect my 1,342 employees. It will also protect the nearly 100 million in recent investments we have made in U.S. manufacturing.

Our employees are dependent on a level playing field here in the United States. The United States is the primary game in town for

food waste disposers representing the vast majority of total global demand.

While domestic demand in China is microscopic, as a result the Chinese industry is almost entirely export oriented, actually U.S. oriented. Unfortunately, unfairly traded Chinese imports have made recent and troubling inroads in the U.S. market.

Disposer imports from China have doubled in the last four years. Over the last decade, during which InSinkErator has been subjected to imbalanced tariffs and intellectual property infringement, disposer imports from China have resulted in a loss of hundreds of millions in sales revenue.

We are deeply concerned that the Chinese industry is driven by the policies that Section 301 is designed to address. Specifically rampant intellectual property theft.

I am also concerned that the customs duties on disposers are not reciprocal. Which means that we pay high tariffs and have no access

to Chinese markets while the Chinese competitors we face enjoy duty-free access to ours.

Specifically, our exports into China have historically been subject to a 20 percent tariff currently reduced to a 10 percent on a temporary basis. While exports from China to the United States face no tariff.

The intellectual property story is straightforward and deeply troubling. Our Chinese competitors have manufactured and exported products that infringed our patents covering InSinkErator's state of the art grind mechanism shredder plates and antimicrobial additives.

That intellectual property is the heart and soul of our product. And represents the primary value add of our Wisconsin workforce.

There have also been egregious violations of InSinkErator's trademarks and copyrights. Third parties have copied entire portions of our website content in an effort to sale knock-off disposers.

Chinese authorities have also allowed the registration of trademarks in China that are identical or nearly identical to the InSinkErator logo. U.S. authorities would have never dreamed of registering these rip-offs. And examples are in the last page of my testimony.

Our efforts to address these infringers in China have tied up company resources that should have been reinvested in my employees and facilities in Wisconsin, not with Chinese lawyers.

These intellectual property issues occur against a backdrop of Chinese state policies designed to encourage Chinese production of environmental goods like food waste disposers. As noted in the Section 301 report, environmental goods have been designated a strategic emerging industry by the Chinese State Council.

It is clear, our industry has a target on its back. And we need the U.S. government to act through the Section 301 process.

Lastly, I want to reiterate the non-

reciprocal tariff regime for food waste 1 2 disposers. Imports into China of U.S. disposers are subject to varying duties between 10 and 20 3 4 percent, while imports into the United States 5 enter duty free. This is exactly the type of situation 6 the President has told the people of Wisconsin 7 8 that he would stop. 9 Thank you for your time. I am happy 10 to answer any of your questions. 11 MR. BISHOP: Thank you Mr. Severson. 12 Our next witness is Michael Stateczny of New Castle Stainless Plate. 13 14 Mr. Stateczny, you have five minutes. 15 Thank you Committee MR. STATECZNY: 16 Members, for holding this hearing today. And for 17 allowing me to testify on behalf of the Coalition 18 of Energy Equipment Manufacturers, CEEM. 19 My name is Mike Stateczny. I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of 20 21 Newcastle Stainless Plate based out of Newcastle,

22

Indiana.

CEEM is a coalition of U.S.

fabricators that manufacture highly specialized industry components that are necessary to produce, store, transport, and refine oil and gas and related products. As well as other mission critical applications vital to the functioning of an advanced economy.

I am here today to ask that process industry components for the energy related and refining industries be included in the final list of products covered by the Section 301 action.

Much like the steel industry, U.S.

fabricators that manufacture these critical

components have been hit especially hard in the

last few years by unfair competition from foreign

companies.

Heavily subsidized foreign corporations have begun dumping fabricated energy equipment at prices that are often below the cost of materials for the same equipment manufactured in the United States.

This is an intentional effort on the

part of companies and countries to avoid the duties that are already in place. And has made it nearly impossible for U.S. companies to compete in the open market for fabrication jobs, many that are being utilized within a few miles of U.S. manufacturing facilities.

This has resulted in a substantial loss of high paying jobs in the manufacturing sector. Especially in equipment for offshore oil and gas production and in refining operations.

This will only continue to happen and get far worse unless the federal government intervenes in a meaningful way.

Whilst we support the Administration's goal of protecting our national security, the Section 232 steel tariffs are having the harmful effect of undermining the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers by increasing the material cost to fabricators for components critical to both national security and energy independence.

To that end, it is imperative that the specific issues of energy equipment fabricators

be addressed in the overall plan to combat discriminatory practices of many of our foreign trade competitors.

While the current list of proposed products subject to the Section 301 action includes many upstream steel products, it does not include process industry components that are also manufactured in China, and are already flooding into the U.S. market.

We feel that it is appropriate to include these components critical to our national security and energy independence, within the scope of the expanded Section 301 petition that is currently under consideration.

Failure to do so, could literally wipe out most of the U.S. fabricators that manufacture this equipment. Thereby eliminating the ability to domestically produce these highly specialized components.

The ability to design, engineer, and fabricate components critical to our national security and energy independence is of paramount

importance in relation to U.S. innovation.

China's trade practices have decimated our ASME qualified companies with dumped, subsidized and predatory pricing practices.

There remain roughly six thousand companies operating within this space that produce components critical to the U.S. economy in times of peace, as well as building defense related articles during times of war. Being a lifer in the steel industry, I can tell you, it was only a couple of decades ago, there were sixteen thousand companies that had ASME credentials.

To close, I would like to provide you with a specific example that demonstrates just how egregious some of our foreign competitors have become. A U.S. fabricator lost an order for a refinery upgrade in Montana where they have a shop in Idaho that has always enjoyed a close relationship to the customer based on service and quality.

Being by far the closest fabricator

with the capability to manufacture such a product, and given the fact that the transportation of such large scale equipment to the job site makes up a substantial portion of the overall cost of the project, the company held a very competitive advantage in winning the job.

The U.S. company quoted a price of 1.9 million dollars installed. And felt this was a very aggressive price based on U.S. plate prices, after the imposition of duties on carbon and alloy plate in March of 2017.

A foreign fabricator took the order for 900 thousand dollars. Which was less then the material cost in the United States.

Making matters worse, a well-respected logistics consultant with experience in ocean shipping, river barging and offloading to the point of installation, confirmed the cost of transportation was 600 thousand dollars.

Clearly this is an outrageous example of dumping and subsidization as no private enterprise could sell components for 300 thousand

dollars based on the raw material cost and the steel plate alone.

Thanks again for the opportunity to speak on behalf of American workers and companies that make mission critical components for our energy independence and national security.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you Mr. Stateczny.

Our final witness on this panel is Scott Lechner

of Zoeller Pump Company.

Mr. Lechner, you have five minutes.

MR. LECHNER: First I want to thank this 301 Committee for considering our position on this important initiative. My name is Scott Lechner and I represent Zoeller Pump Company, a family-owned business.

But more importantly, I represent
seven hundred U.S. employees who manufacture just
about -- just under 200 million dollars in
domestic sales. And we have manufacturing
facilities in Kentucky, Indiana, Texas, and
Wisconsin, with numerous vendors, local vendors
who supply our components to us.

Zoeller manufactures centrifugal water pumps. Specifically product code 8503.00.65.

These products move water in every different way from potable drinking water, to industrial pumps, to irrigation pumps, to gray effluent pumps, and yes, even sewage pumps.

And I think everyone is aware of the global importance of moving water. Which is, and will continue to be among the most important natural resources we have globally.

We feel Zoeller is an American success story. Zoeller divisions started in 1866 manufacturing windmills and hand pumps.

And we've been in the water business ever since. Currently 85 percent of our products are still manufactured in the United States.

In fact, we recently made a decision to repatriate a half million motors from Mexico back in the United State for quality considerations and our Made in America campaign.

All Zoeller Company is looking for is an even playing field.

Thus, we are in favor of the proposed 301 action. Zoeller is the market leader in sump and sewage pump products in the United States with a dominant market share.

Zoeller products do have acquired IP distinctiveness. As a result, our pumps are the most knocked off products in the industry, with China suppliers even copying our casting part numbers when they copy our pumps.

And as it was stated previously in this hearing from other visitors, it is difficult to take your major customers to court over the IP issues. And in fact, some of our major customers are the ones taking our pumps over to China and saying here, copy these so we can knock them off.

In addition, we have seen China subsidize machined raw material products cheaper then what -- then the per pound raw material costs that we can purchase it at at market pricing.

And for a company -- for a privately owned company that stands on the four pillars of

quality, service, innovation, and integrity, this has been hard to comprehend.

Recently, Zoeller has embarked on an Empower the American Worker campaign, which has been quite well received in the marketplace.

However, with state mandated laws stating that Made in the USA must use 100 percent U.S. sourced materials, it puts these cheaper import guys pretty much on an even playing field to us as we're 92 to 94 percent made in the USA.

And they can simply throw the flag on the box and say engineered in USA, designed in USA, and things like that. Even though we do manufacture in the USA.

In conclusion, what we're looking for is an even playing field. It is anticipated that the proposed 301 tariffs will help legitimize -- legitimately level the playing field.

Although it may not give Zoeller relief in terms of IP theft, it will make China knock offs and made products less appealing, strengthening our U.S. manufacturing proposition.

1	And it will result in other
2	manufacturers rethinking decisions and possibly
3	moving jobs back to the United States. We think
4	this can be a boom for others besides just the
5	pump manufacturers like Zoeller Pump Company.
6	I want to thank you for your time and
7	attention.
8	MR. BISHOP: Thank you Mr. Lechner.
9	Mr. Chairman, that concludes direct testimony
LO	from this Panel.
L1	CHAIR TSAO: Great. Thank you. I
L2	want to turn to my colleagues to see if there are
L3	any questions?
L 4	MR. AMDUR: Again, Alexander Amdur
L5	from Customs and Border Protection.
L6	MR. BISHOP: We need you a little
L7	closer to your mic, please.
L8	MR. AMDUR: Okay. Again, Alexander
L9	Amdur from Customs and Border Protection. I have
20	a question for Mr. Czachor.
21	You indicate there's only one
22	remaining domestic stainless steel keg

manufacturer using domestic stainless steel in 1 2 the United States. Approximately how long would it take for you to ramp up capacity to meet 3 domestic demand if tariffs were placed on Chinese 4 5 stainless steel beer kegs? MR. CZACHOR: All right, even with a 6 7 large tariff placed on Chinese import kegs, it's 8 unlikely that they would stop importing. 9 would just be reduced significantly. 10 Our time to ramp up would be a matter 11 of weeks to months. And we would be able to 12 accommodate a large portion of that. 13 In addition, there are other 14 suppliers, mainly European and Mexican suppliers 15 that import into this country. The key 16 difference is, it's not subsidized or dumped low-17 cost steel. 18 So, the industry would not miss a 19 beat. Stevan Mitchell from 20 MR. MITCHELL: 21 the Department of Commerce. A similar question

for Mr. Feniger.

You indicated that you're the only remaining domestic manufacturer of steel U posts for the lawn and garden industry. And the Chinese manufacturers are currently supplying 85 percent of the U.S. market.

How long would it take for the domestic industry to ramp up capacity to meet domestic demand if tariffs were placed on the import of these products from China?

MR. FENIGER: I have a similar answer to him on the sense of that imports will still continue to happen. But, American Post could ramp up their production levels within two to four months to handle most of, 75 to 80 percent of the domestic market, seeing that we're only running at 35 capacity -- 35 percent capacity today.

And the impact on the consumer would only be 20 to 40 cents per unit additional cost to be able to buy an American product. And over the last ten years, we've seen that that's not an issue, seeing that Ace Hardware has had that in

their stores since we opened the doors of our facility.

CHAIR TSAO: Arthur Tsao, USTR. This question is for Mr. Baer.

Mr. Baer, you indicated that you're the only remaining U.S. mass producer of LCD televisions. In your opinion, if tariffs were placed on imports of both the finished TVs and the LCD screens, you know, from China, what would the effect be on consumer pricing?

MR. BAER: I think the effect on consumer pricing at that point would be an increase. Because you would have then eliminated the ability to have a domestic market.

I think the value of having the key component, the panel, which is 70 to 75 percent of the cost of the TV and not available in the U.S., having that component available, being off the list and allowing that to come in without the additional duty allows not only Element but multiple producers to come into this marketplace, employ thousands of U.S. workers and assemble

televisions here in the U.S. 1 2 MR. SULBY: Ari Sulby, Department of Question for Mr. Severson. 3 State. 4 What would be the expected impact on 5 U.S. consumers of food waste disposals from China being the subject to the 301 tariffs? 6 7 MR. SEVERSON: Yes. Thank you for the I think, you know, one thing to look 8 question. 9 at is we participate in all levels of the 10 marketplace. 11 From the very aggressive MRO part of 12 the business to builder parts of the business and frankly. So, it's not as if there is one section 13 14 of the marketplace that is subject to imports or 15 not. 16 And so frankly, I believe there will 17 be little or no impact based on the fact that we 18 are competing at all of those levels. And have 19 multiple channel partners competing for business in those levels. 20 21 MS. PETTIS: Maureen Pettis, 22 Department of Labor. This is a question for Mr.

Stateczny.

Approximately how long would it take your domestic industry to ramp up capacity and meet domestic demand if process industry components imported from China were subject to tariffs?

MR. STATECZNY: Tomorrow. Tomorrow.

There is so much underutilization amongst our

U.S. fabricators, designers, and engineers.

That it's just heartbreaking to see shops stand empty as barge after barge of Chinese process industry equipment goes through the Houston ship channel for destinations involving LNG installations, ethylene crackers, et cetera.

So there's ample capacity. Our membership stands ready to produce a quality product on time, engineered to the highest standards.

And much of the Chinese material that's coming in actually has to be reworked, because it doesn't meet the AM semi code standard. So actually there's a cottage industry

developing amongst some of fabricators where 1 2 they're actually reworking Chinese -- a product that is not up to standard. 3 So, it's a very, very quick ramp up 4 5 period. Literally tomorrow. We stand ready. MR. SULBY: Question for Mr. Branson. 6 You indicated that adding certain air 7 8 conditioners, heat pumps, and gas furnaces to the 9 tariff list will not impose significant harm on 10 U.S. consumers. 11 Can you expand on how you reached that 12 determination? 13 MR. BRANSON: Certainly. With the 14 tariffs that have already been in place and the additional 301s, there is definitely an increased 15 16 cost to manufacturing these products. 17 Even if those parts aren't purchased 18 from China, there is a migration upward in the market price. However, it's -- and we've even 19 20 seen that pass through. 21 So certainly there will be an impact But I think it would be -- the benefit 22 to them.

to the U.S. economy in having additional workers 1 2 and manufacturing here domestically is of great value. 3 4 And having the products here and the 5 quality that is received is of value as well. But there definitely will be an increase in 6 7 price. 8 This question is for Mr. MS. BONNER: 9 I'm Sarah Bonner from the US Small Business Administration. 10 11 In your written testimony you indicted that low to mid end consumer scopes are generally 12 not manufactured in the United States. 13 Are these 14 products available from manufacturers outside of 15 Chinese manufacturers? 16 And also, are there additional issues 17 that might be concerns for U.S. small businesses 18 operating in FTZs that this Committee should be 19 considering? 20 MR. BECKWITH: Absolutely. So, to 21 answer your first question, China is the only place that makes these scopes. They're not 22

available anywhere else at this point.

MS. BONNER: Um-hum.

MR. BECKWITH: To answer your second question, I absolutely think, and there's going to be testimony presented by a group representing foreign trade zones later this week, but I completely agree with their testimony.

And the fact that a lot of those foreign trade zones were set up so that U.S. companies, particularly small ones like ours could continue to compete with foreign source products.

So when you have, we've mentioned duty inversion earlier, when you have the ability to sell the product as if it is a component of the final product, rather than the duty rate as if it was sold separately, levels the playing field with any who might import that product.

So, and to use my example earlier, and a scope, for example, on an air gun. It can be anywhere between 20 to 40 percent of the value of that air gun, depending upon what kind of scope

you're putting on it.

And if the foreign source supplier is taking that same scope from that same factory, putting it on their air gun, and then bringing it in at a 4 percent rate, and yet we are going to have that particular product be a 40 percent up from 4, losing the protection of the foreign trade zone, you really are negating the reason it was set up in the first place.

MS. BONNER: Thank you.

MS. KORKOS: All right. Nicole Korkos from CEA. And my question is for Mr. Lechner.

So you indicted that there are few remaining manufacturers of centrifugal pumps.

And that approximately 60 percent of the 2.5 million household sump pumps imported per year come for China.

Approximately how long would it take for the domestic industry to ramp up capacity to meet domestic demand if tariffs were placed on imports of these products from China?

And also, from which countries do the

other 40 percent of imported pumps originate?

MR. LECHNER: Well, I'd go back just
I've been in this industry for 30 years, and

I'd go back 15 years ago and there were 25

competitive pump companies domestically in the

United States.

They eventually got bought out by the

They eventually got bought out by the conglomerates, Pentair, Franklin Electric, ITT, and all these smaller companies got bought out.

And consequently all their manufacturing went over to China and Asia.

So, and the other thing that's interesting too, is that the retail shelves, when 15 years ago most of the practical retail shelves had domestic products. When the China product came in, those retails did not go down. They stayed the same.

So, the margins went to these -- to the big merchants. Right now, there's only us and another manufacturer still manufacturing any substantial throughout the United States.

I would venture to say these tariffs

went into effect, the pricing for the first year 1 2 would be absorbed by the retailers and so forth. It would go up, the pricing would go up. 3 Those retailers could absorb those. 4 5 They're making a huge margin on this product now. And I would say in about a year, a year and a 6 half there could be reaction to bringing that 7 8 manufacturing. 9 Most of the manufacturing is like in Ohio and some of these places are just skeletons. 10 The manufacturing equipment is even still there. 11 So, the companies could react rather 12 13 quickly. Sorry for the long answer. 14 Sorry sir, a quick follow CHAIR TSAO: So in addition to China, are there other 15 up. 16 countries where these pumps can come from? 17 MR. LECHNER: There are. I mean, 18 Italy depending on what the exchange rate is, 19 there are some Italian pumps coming in. 20 But, largely it's China for the United 21 When the exchange rate is favorable, you 22 see some Italian pumps come in now and then.

CHAIR TSAO: Thank you.

MR. AMDUR: I have a follow up question for Mr. Baer. So, in your testimony you expressed some concerns about potential circumvention.

And you proposed a potential remedy about a certain -- on tariff shifts. And can you just in plain English describe what you're trying to achieve through these requirements?

MR. BAER: Certainly. The primary issue, at least with respect to our products, is a rule of origin issue. And so the idea is that as we sit here today, Chinese producers are moving subassemblies and components to other countries.

And so countries that perhaps never have assembled or manufactured TVs, you'll see a massive -- assuming these duties go in place, you'll see a massive spike in imports from places like Thailand and Vietnam.

Because what they've done is they've just simply moved a final assembly location from

inside of China to inside of a different country. 1 2 And then shipped the product to the U.S. And so the key important piece is to 3 4 define a rule of origin, so to speak, for the 301 5 duty that says look, if you want to put this penalty in place for these Chinese companies, you 6 can't just let them simply move across a border 7 8 and do the same thing they're doing, and have no 9 effect. 10 MR. AMDUR: Okay. Thank you. Thank you. 11 MR. BAER: You're welcome. 12 MR. BISHOP: We release this Panel And we invite our next Panel. 13 with our thanks. 14 Please come forward and be seated. 15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter 16 went off the record at 2:46 p.m. and 17 resumed at 2:50 p.m.) 18 CHAIR TSAO: Good afternoon. For the 19 record we have a new -- we have some new members 20 to the Section 301 Committee. 21 For the record, my name is Arthur 22 Tsao, USTR.

1	MR. O'BYRNE: Bryan O'Byrne, Small
2	Business Administration.
3	MR. SULBY: Ari Sulby, Department of
4	State.
5	MS. HOWE: Julia Howe, USTR.
6	MS. SALZMAN: Rachel Salzman,
7	Department of Commerce.
8	MR. STEPHENS: Andrew Stephens, U.S.
9	Department of Agriculture.
10	MS. PETTIS: Maureen Pettis,
11	Department of Labor.
12	MR. AMDUR: Alexander Amdur, U.S.
13	Customs and Border Protection.
14	MR. BISHOP: Our first witness on this
15	Panel is Nathan Bowen with the National
16	Association of State Departments of Agriculture.
17	Mr. Bowen, you have five minutes.
18	MR. BOWEN: Thank you for the
19	opportunity to testify today on behalf of NASDA.
20	My full written testimony has been submitted for
21	the record.
22	While NASDA appreciates and agrees

with the Administration's findings of China's restrictive economic and trade policies, we are concerned about the potential ramifications to U.S. agriculture. Especially when crop prices are down 40 percent since 2013, and farm income is down 50 percent.

Instead of new tariffs, we believe bilateral negotiations and engaging a coalition of like-minded countries will more effective advance the Administration's goal of free and fair trade with China, while minimizing the risk to agriculture.

NASDA represents the Commissioners,
Secretaries, and Directors of the State
Departments of Agriculture. State Departments of
Agriculture are responsible for a host of
regulatory programs, export promotion, and for
managing programs that facilitate exports.

It is imperative that U.S. producers not lose ground in the vital Chinese market.

China was the second largest export market for U.S. ag products in 2017, as the U.S. sent more

then 19.6 billion dollars in exports to China.

While U.S. agriculture has largely benefitted from the more open Chinese markets, serious challenges to fully access the market still exists. And we look forward to working with the Administration to address.

In trade disputes ag products are often the first line of attack. And the current dispute with China is no exception.

For example, just days after the U.S. imposed Section 201 tariffs on solar panels and washing machines, the Chinese government launched an investigation into U.S. sorghum imports. And then imposed a 179 percent preliminary anti-duty -- anti-dumping duty on U.S. sorghum.

And in response to U.S. Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum, China announced tariffs of roughly two billion on U.S. food and ag exports.

That same week China proposed levying additional tariffs on U.S. ag and food products, impacting approximately 16.5 billion worth of

U.S. exports. The announcement came just hours after the U.S. proposed implementing 50 billion worth of tariffs in response to this Section 301 investigation.

At a time when crop prices are down and farm income has fallen 50 percent, farmers cannot afford additional tariffs. While China has not yet implemented these proposed tariffs, American agriculture is already starting to see signs of obstruction in the marketplace, including delaying U.S. product entering the country.

NASDA understands, there are legitimate commercial concerns that need to be addressed stemming from this investigation.

However, NASDA strongly believes that all bilateral and multilateral negotiating opportunities should be exhausted before the U.S. imposes additional duties on Chinese products.

We urge the U.S. government to negotiate with China in order to avoid a trade confrontation and eliminate the need to impose

tariffs. Thus in response to USTR's request, NASDA recommends no products be subject to increased duties, no increase in the rate of duties, and no additional duties be levied at this time.

Trade actions that trigger retaliation, threaten real jobs. And follow this proportionately on agriculture.

relief to a few industries, but they will also increase consumer and business costs and lead to retaliation. Instead, NASDA urges and stands ready to support bilateral negotiations to avoid the negative impact of increased tariffs or other restrictions on economic engagement with China.

Moreover, NASDA urges the

Administration to pursue full enforcement of

existing international and domestic trade rules.

Including the initiation of additional WTO cases.

We encourage engagement with our trade partners. And the utilization of regional and global challenges in order to reduce and

1 eliminate trade and investment impediments 2 deployed by China. In conclusion, while there are 3 legitimate issues for the Administration to 4 5 address with China, it is imperative these issues be addressed with the coalition of like-minded 6 7 countries in order to ensure U.S. agriculture 8 producers are able to continue to take advantage 9 of export opportunities with the vital Chinese 10 market. 11 Again, thank you for the opportunity 12 to testify today. 13 MR. BISHOP: Thank you Mr. Bowen. Our 14 next witness is Ed Brzytwa of the American 15 Chemistry Council. 16 Mr. Brzytwa, you have five minutes. 17 MR. BRZYTWA: Thank you. The American 18 Chemistry Council appreciates the opportunity to 19 testify today. 20 I plan to use the next few minutes to 21 highlight four key points from our public comments, describe the real world impacts of 22

China's proposed retaliation on U.S. chemical manufacturers.

First, China's proposed retaliatory tariffs on U.S. chemicals could not be more ill-timed for our industry and our country. We are an 800 billion dollar enterprise with 822,000 workers and 194 billion dollars in announced U.S. investments.

We are the top U.S. exporting industry with 181 billion dollars in exports in 2017. And we expect to have a trade surplus of 73 billion dollars by 2022.

Nearly a third of U.S. chemical manufacturing jobs depend on exports. Given this potential for growth, we are deeply concerned about the impact of tariffs on our industry.

Second, our primary concern is the threat of retaliation by China. Forty percent of the products on China's initial retaliation list relate to chemicals.

These products are largely basic chemicals, plastic resins, and some specialty

chemicals as well as some finished forms of plastics. China is a key export market for U.S. made chemicals.

That China has included these products on its tariff list is a recognition of the competitiveness of the U.S. chemicals industry and the challenge it poses to China's own fast growing chemical sector. Enabling a retaliatory trade war will only advantage China's growing industry at the expense of America's production.

China's tariff's will hit the U.S. chemicals industry not once, but twice. By closing the China market both to our exports and to exports of products using chemicals in their production. For example, agricultural goods and automotive products.

The tariffs on downstream products
will lead to less demand for those products. And
therefore less demand for U.S. made chemicals.

ACC estimates that as many as 24 thousand U.S.
jobs and the chemicals in downstream sectors
would be lost.

Third, we agree that USTR has identified the right set of problems in China. Intellectual property theft and enforced technology transfer are challenging issues for our industry.

However, punitive tariffs against

China are not the solution. Neither the threat

of tariffs nor their application will change

China's mercantilist behavior.

Imposing increased duties on the products in the annex to the Federal Register notice would not be practicable or effective to obtain the elimination of China's acts, policies, and practices. These duties, if applied, would cause disproportionate economic harm to U.S. interests including SMEs and consumers.

Fourth, about five percent of the products in the U.S. annex are related to chemicals. We urge USTR to remove these products from the list and reconsider the inclusion of so many vital inputs that U.S. manufacturers use to further their operations and support American

jobs in manufacturing.

I would like to conclude my remarks by sharing a few firsthand accounts from ACC's members on the damaging real world impacts these tariffs would have on their businesses.

One company reports that a number of its U.S. source specialty plastic products are on China's list. The overall direct impact to this company is likely to be into the millions of dollars.

It's also worried about the indirect downstream impact of the tariffs which they expect to be significant. The tariffs will incentivize off shoring. The company anticipates moving the production of these materials to its European or Asian operations.

Some ACC members are specialty polymer producers serving global markets from U.S. based plants and competing with non U.S. suppliers.

China's retaliatory tariffs will weaken the competitiveness of the U.S. producers in very important export markets.

Some producers will reduce or end production in the United States in order to maintain access to China's market. And others will be greatly disadvantaged.

The tariffs could also result in significant supply chain interruptions for critical applications such as healthcare and water purification.

A number of ACC members are invested in agricultural crop protection. A 25 percent tariff on U.S. soybean imports to China would lead to loss of earnings and redirection of trade flows to Argentina and Brazil, making the U.S. crop protection market less attractive.

Some ACC members research, develop,
and manufacture catalyst, catalyst basis, and
absorb into the U.S. and then export to China for
use in oil refining processes.

The products would face a 31.5 percent applied tariff to the border of China, contributing tens of millions of dollars in additional duties. Lower cost competitors would

gain more Chinese customers, become stronger in 1 2 China and globally, undermining U.S. competitiveness. 3 A preferred pathway to solving these 4 5 problems is constructive, thorough, and sustained negotiations focused on pragmatic solutions to 6 7 the challenges of China's mercantilist policies. 8 We are pleased that the U.S. and China 9 have begun to negotiate. We strongly urge both sides to avoid the imposition of tariffs. 10 11 We'd welcome the opportunity to 12 discuss alternative ways to change China's 13 behavior in the question and answer period. 14 Thank you for your time. Thank you Mr. Brzytwa. 15 MR. BISHOP: 16 Our next witness is Joseph Cohen of Snow Joe, 17 LLC. 18 Mr. Cohen, you have five minutes. 19 MR. COHEN: Thank you. Good 20 afternoon. I'm Joseph Cohen, the founder and CEO 21 of Snow Joe. I'd like to testify today that 22 imposing tariffs on certain snow removal products

would harm American consumers and businesses in the United States. Thank you for this opportunity.

I launched Snow Joe as a junior in high school more than a decade ago. The goal was to help Americans clear out snow during a storm with a better, more affordable tool. When I founded the company, we sold only one product, an electric snow shovel that you could buy for less than \$100. Called the Snow Joe, we took our first order with television channel QVC. The product sold out in seven minutes and our company was born.

Fourteen years later, Snow Joe is a thriving and rapidly growing company which creates work for hundreds of Americans and achieves retail sales greater than one quarter billion. We take pride in our continued development of innovative and high-quality outdoor tools that make American consumers' lives easier and safer in the winter months. I have attached, with a copy of the testimony, some

example products.

We invest heavily in American R&D and provide work for approximately 300 people, primarily in the greater New Jersey and New York areas. Next month, we are opening a new 277,000 square foot state-of-the-art distribution and test facility in Mahwah, New Jersey that will support at least 100 more jobs. We are also expanding into Washington State with a planned 200,000 square foot facility in 2020.

American ingenuity, Snow Joe recognizes the importance of fair and reciprocal trade and protecting intellectual property rights. We, therefore, appreciate the goals that the administration has set to promote these policy priorities. However, we believe that several of the proposed tariffs would cause undue harm to our customers and to our company without addressing the stated concerns of the administration.

Although Snow Joe snow throwers and

shovels are designed and developed in the United States, they are manufactured in China out of necessity. To be clear, we source what we can from the United States. For example, we produce ice melt in Delaware. But let me explain why we had to turn to China for manufacturing of these snow tools.

When I launched the company, I looked for U.S. suppliers of gas-free powered snow products in the United States but found none. I have not found any such U.S. suppliers over the past 14 years. Today, I am not aware of any significant production of any such products anywhere in the world outside of China.

U.S. manufacturing of our products is out of the question today and here's why. The manufacturing of these powered snow tools in the U.S. would require the building of a new production facility from scratch with massive investment. However, such investment would take years before production would be realized. The seasonal nature of these products, which are

generally sold between September and January each year, diminishes incentives for U.S. production. For a small and medium-sized company like mine, such an investment simply is not commercially feasible.

Because Snow Joe's tools are marketed and sold for home use, the primary users of these products are ordinary do it yourself families and individuals looking for a better way to clear out Our customers seek out our affordable snow. products at times when they need them the most, such as during a serious snow storm. The imposition of a significant tariff on Snow Joe's powered snow products would harm our customers who rely on these products during such times of Without any alternatives sourcing options, we would be unable to offset the impact of the tariffs by purchasing domestically or from another country. Because of the complexities, costs, and startup time associated with building a new factory in the United States, the limited supply options would persist well into the

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foreseeable future. The result undermines the stated goals of the administration in proposing these tariffs.

For example, in seeking to address
China's trade practices, the administration
indicated its intent to target tariffs on
products benefitting from China's industrial
policy such as Made in China 2025. Snow Joe's
consumer snow products are not a focus of China's
industrial policies or its efforts to challenge
U.S. leadership in high technology sectors, nor
is Snow Joe aware of any instances of Chinese
intellectual property theft with respect to these
products.

U.S. or significant third country supply for powered snow tools, the imposition of tariffs would essentially result in a tax on U.S. consumers who rely on these products. The proposed tariffs would also disproportionately harm the small and medium-sized businesses such as mine that provide these useful snow removal

tools.

respectfully requests that the USTR exclude from its proposed list the specific tariffs highlighted in our submission, which cover electric and cordless snow blowers and snow shovels.

Thank you for this opportunity to present these views today and I'm happy to answer any questions during the Q and A session.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Cohen.

Our next witness is Linda Dempsey with the

National Association of Manufacturers. Ms.

Dempsey, you have five minutes.

MS. DEMPSEY: Thank you. The National Association of Manufacturers, the NAM, is the oldest and largest manufacturing association in the United States, representing more than 14,000 manufacturers, small and large, in every industrial sector in all 50 states.

Manufacturing employs 12.6 million U.S. workers and had a record \$2.25 trillion in output in

2017, about half of which was exported.

Manufacturers have been energized by the President's commitment to manufacturing opportunities across the country. His leadership in securing tax reform and addressing excessive regulation has helped free manufacturers to grow and invest in America. That leadership has also highlighted the urgency of addressing foreign market distortions that have held our manufacturers back for too long. Nowhere is that focus more important than China, which presents both major challenges and opportunities for our manufacturers.

Consider that our manufacturers sell more to China than to any other country outside of Canada and Mexico and those exports alone support hundreds of thousands of U.S. manufacturing jobs.

U.S. manufacturing goods exports to
China have grown five-fold since China joined the
WTO, reflecting both China's market openings and
economic growth resulting from that accession.

China is now the number one consumer market in the world for cars, food, and many other products, with an economy four times bigger than it was in 2001 and a middle class that has grown by hundreds of millions of new entrants.

Our manufacturers need to tap into that enormous growth to support and create more good paying manufacturing jobs here at home.

Yet, our manufacturers have long-faced a wide range of distortive activities in China, including many extensively documented by this investigation. Those barriers limit U.S. exports, distort market conditions in the U.S. and third countries, and result in the theft and mistreatment of U.S. property and investment.

Those activities have crippled manufacturers and their workers and urgent solutions are required.

The United States has taken many actions to address these challenges, some successful, others less so, including more than 20 WTO challenges, 150 trade remedy cases, more than 100 Section 337 IP actions, bilateral

negotiations, and ongoing work with our allies. While these approaches must remain part of the solution, they are not sufficient and create no framework to bind China to deeper, broader, international rules.

The NAM, therefore, urges the administration to seize the moment with a strong solutions-based approach. As NAM president and CEO, Jay Timmons explained in a letter to the President on January 8, the most effective path forward is a comprehensive and strategic approach that has at its core a modern, innovative, bilateral trade agreement that restructures our economic relationship with China. Such an agreement must eliminate Chinese barriers, raise Chinese standards, and create new rules to prohibit market distorting practices that violate free markets and fair competition and create binding and neutral enforcement to address cheating and violations. This approach represents the best way to treat the disease, not just the symptoms.

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We appreciate the administration's efforts to identify and solve these important problems and the clear signal-centering discussions in Beijing.

This Section 301 investigation has certainly raised the level of focus here and in China and we hope it will provide just the opening to move forward aggressively on a strategic new approach, yet the actual imposition of tariffs, themselves, would not solve the underlying problems. All of the U.S. proposed tariffs are on manufactured goods imports and many would impact inputs critical to sustain U.S.-based manufacturing. While tariffs may provide short term relief to some, we are hearing regularly and broadly from manufacturers across the country who are deeply concerned about the harmful, albeit unintended impacts of the proposed tariffs and their impact on manufacturing and jobs. These tariffs would cripple many manufacturers that depend on imports of covered materials that are not available from

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U.S. or third country suppliers. These tariffs would increase direct input costs for some manufacturers and their customers, particularly small and medium-sized manufacturers, challenging their ability to remain competitive at home or in third markets.

In short, if tariffs are imposed,
manufacturers would face the unenviable choice of
incurring a substantial economic loss to foreign
competitors or manufacturing overseas to remain
competitive. Manufacturers will also be injured
by the loss of sales if China imposes its
proposed tariffs, nearly 60 percent of which are
targeted at U.S. manufactured goods exports.

Chinese proposed tariffs on U.S.

agricultural exports would also harm our

manufacturers by reducing our opportunity for

domestic sales of agricultural equipment and

supplies.

If tariffs escalate, so will the harm to manufacturers and their workers. We, therefore, urge the administration to move

forward with a strategic solutions-oriented approach to address, once and for all, all of the underlying issues and to put manufacturers and their workers on a fair and competitive playing field with China.

Thank you.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Ms. Dempsey.

Our next witness is Clark Packard of R
Street Institute. Mr. Packard, you have five
minutes.

MR. PACKARD: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Clark Packard and I'm

Trade Policy Counsel with the R Street Institute located here in Washington, D.C.

The U.S.-China relationship is the single most important geopolitical relationship in the world right now and increasingly so.

Getting it right is crucial to future peace and prosperity around the globe. Let me state unequivocally that certain Chinese trade policy practices, including their intellectual property practices, are cause for concern and ought to be

addressed. I take USTR Section 301 report at face value but I believe there is a better course of action than the one laid out by the President and USTR, one that is consistent with domestic law and our international trade obligations.

I have significant concerns about imposing unilateral tariffs without first receiving a WTO ruling. This investigation and the proposed remedies are being issued pursuant to Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. Section 301 gives the President and USTR the authority to take actions to address unfair trade practices not covered by trade agreements. The law is unique among domestic trade statutes in that the goal of the statute is to open foreign markets abroad and not to curb imports.

For a time, especially during the 1980s, the United States relied heavily on Section 301 to address foreign trade practices. This aggressive unilateralism was viewed skeptically by our trading partners. When the United States and our trading partners began

negotiation of the Uruguay Round, the subject of unilateral trade enforcement was a major point of contention. Through negotiations, the United States and the European Commission agreed on what became known as the Round's Grand Bargain. As part of the Grand Bargain, the United States agreed to give up unilateral enforcement of U.S. rights under the WTO in exchange for other nations and trading partners giving up their veto in the dispute settlement system. This commitment is found in Article 22 -- or 23.1 of the WTO's dispute settlement understanding and has been a cornerstone of WTO jurisprudence since 1995.

And it's not just our international legal obligations that impose this requirement.

When Congress ratified the Uruguay Round in 1994, it implemented the agreement through the Uruguay Round Agreements Act or the URAA. Through the URAA, Congress required USTR to use the WTO's dispute settlement process for all violations of WTO agreements. The URAA and the binding

statement of administrative action that accompanied it, allowed USTR and the executive branch to take unilateral action against foreign trade practices only when those practices fall outside the scope of the WTO agreements. For trade practices that can be addressed within the WTO, imposing unilateral tariffs before bringing the dispute to the WTO is a per se violation of both our international and domestic laws.

Make no mistake, China will challenge our unilateral tariffs and the WTO will sanction Chinese retaliation against American exports.

This will make China the defender of the rulesbased trading system and the United States will look like the scofflaw in the eyes of the world.

The question then is: Which trade practices violate WTO agreements and what can be addressed through the WTO's dispute settlement?

At the outset, I agree with the administration's decision to bring a WTO dispute against China's licensing regime but would suggest that there are potential remedies within

the WTO to address other aspects of the complaint. For these areas, the United States bringing WTO complaints should be expanded and we should bring in Japan, the EU, and like-minded countries into the fold. A broad coalition speaking with one voice has much more moral authority than a rogue unilateral approach.

Jim Bacchus, former Congressman from Florida and former chief judge on the WTO's appellate body, has written persuasively about how the WTO's TRIPS Agreement, as well as China's accession protocol provide ample authority to address most of the United States' complaint.

Bacchus has pointed out that the rules contained in the TRIPS agreement are, quote, unique among WTO rules because they impose affirmative obligations but have been, quote, largely unexplored in WTO dispute settlement.

Along with alleged intellectual property abuses and unlawful licensing regime,
USTR's report focuses on forced technology
transfers. Article 7.3 of China's Accession

Protocol prohibits Beijing from conditioning importation or investment on, among other things, the transfer of technology. This is an explicit prohibition.

Together, the TRIPS Agreement and China's Accession Protocol provide the United States and its trading partners with the unique opportunity to set a strong precedent that these agreements have teeth and can be applied to the changing nature of trade in the 21st century. the United States were to lose this challenge, it could then reassess how to address unfair and abusive trade practices by China. But haphazard attempts to act unilaterally without first attempting to use the legally prescribed channels will certainly fail. There seems to be a basic believe in this administration that the WTO is an effective organization to deal with China's intransigence. Facts belie this belief. The United States wins more than 90 percent of the cases it brings at the WTO. Likewise, the United States wins a greater percentage of the cases

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brought against it than most. And finally, China has a good, though not perfect, record of complying with adverse rulings from the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body.

Thank you.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Packard.

Our next witness is Michelle Erickson

Jones with Farmers for Free Trade. Ms. Jones,

you have five minutes.

MS. JONES: Good afternoon. My name is Michelle Erickson Jones and I am a fourth generation farmer from Montana. I am president of the Montana Grain Growers Association, serve on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Wheat Growers, and am a member of Farmers for Free Trade.

It is my honor to testify today on the impacts of Section 301 proposed tariffs on U.S. farmers, agribusiness, and the entire rural economy. Farmers for Free Trade is a bipartisan nonprofit organization that represents America's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses.

Our members recognize that our livelihood is supported by and benefits from the highly integrated cross-border supply chains that make up the agriculture and food processing industries, serving customers around the globe.

American agriculture is a tremendous global marketing success story. We export 50 percent of our major commodities, such as corn, wheat, and soybeans; 70 percent of fruit nuts; and more than 25 percent of our pork. Exports account for 20 percent of all U.S. farm revenue and rely on strong commercial relationships in key markets, including Canada, Mexico, Japan, the European Union, and, of course, China, the second largest market for U.S. agriculture, accounting for nearly \$19 billion in exports in 2017.

U.S. agricultural exports also support over a million American jobs. As such, trade is critically important to the U.S. economy in our rural communities. As I noted publicly in recent months, while many rural American families are optimistic about economic growth under the

current administration, there is concern among farmers about trade policies that reduce access to the export markets that we depend on.

Farmers for Free Trade respects the administration's efforts to address China's unfair trade practices, however, we are very concerned about the unintended consequences if the tariffs are placed on Chinese imports under Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act. Of particular concern is the likely damage to a vital market that I and other farmers depend on.

The Office of the U.S. Trade

Representatives has asked whether maintaining or imposing additional duties on a particular product would cause disproportionate economic harm to U.S. interests. With respect to farmers and ranchers, the answer is clear. It will and we are already seeing the effects. This comes at a time when American farmers are currently bearing the brunt of the U.S.-China trade dispute related to Section 232, tariffs on steel and aluminum. The retaliation for these tariffs is

imposing a staggering burden on key U.S. farm sectors, including grapes, wine, almonds, walnuts, pistachios, pork, and oranges.

Let me offer a personal example of Section 232 tariffs are raising the costs of capital investments for farmers such as myself. Earlier this year, we priced a new 25,000 grain bin to increase grain storage capacity on our The price was 12 percent higher than an farm. identical bin we built in 2017. As we weighed our options, the initial bid on bin number two expired, so we sought a second bid. This bid was eight percent higher than the initial one just a few weeks prior. A 20 percent increase in the cost of a steel product in just one year. bin company attributed the increase to a significant increase in their cost of steel. Ιt seemed their domestically-sourced steel suppliers had increased their prices to match the price of imported steel. As a result of this dramatic cost increase and volatility in the market, we abandoned our grain storage expansion project.

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The implication of that decision not only harmed my operation, it also hurt my community. A small local construction company lost a project. A U.S. grain bin company missed a sale. And a domestic steel company had one less shipment to send out of their factory.

Now, let me provide some real world examples of the impact of actual and threatened Chinese retaliation on U.S. agriculture from the 232 and pending 301. China is the third-largest export market for fresh cherries from the United States. In 2017, U.S. exporters shipped \$119 million of fresh cherries. For California, cherry exports doubled over the past five years and the California cherry industry sees China as the export market with the greatest growth potential, far surpassing Canada as the largest export market for cherries produced in the Pacific Northwest.

Cherries now face a 15 percent retaliatory tariff. The walnut industry is similarly dependent on exports to foreign markets

and is now facing a 15 percent retaliatory tariff.

With respect today's hearing, it is important to note that while the Section 301 tariffs are not yet in effect, the U.S. farmer community is already feeling the effects of threatened tariff action, including depressed commodity prices, shipments held up at port, increased inspections, and canceled orders.

U.S. wheat is on China's proposed retaliation
list, facing a 25 percent tariff. Last year, the
U.S. exported 61 million bushels of wheat worth
\$459 million to China; \$65 million of that came
out of Montana alone, a major market for the
United States. China also purchases wheat from
Australia, Canada, Kazakhstan, and Russia, some
of our top competitors. There is no doubt that
if retaliatory tariffs are implemented on U.S.
wheat, we could lose market share to our
competitors who would benefit from a significant
price advantage. This would have a major

negative impact on U.S. farmers who are already 1 2 suffering from extended periods of low prices. 3 Sorry. Currently, farmers across America are 4 5 in the field wondering whether the seeds of their planting will produce a profitable crop at 6 harvest time in the fall. 7 Finally, Farmers for Free Trade urges 8 9 the administration to take a thoughtful and long-10 term approach to resolving the Section 301 trade dispute with China. 11 12 MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Ms. Jones. 13 Our next witness is Greg Skelton of 14 SABIC. Mr. Skelton, you have five minutes. MR. SKELTON: Good afternoon and thank 15 16 you for the opportunity to comment on the 17 administration's proposed 301 action. 18 SABIC is one of the world's leading 19 petrochemical manufacturers, currently the 20 fourth-largest petrochemical manufacturer in the 21 world. We have operated in the United States for

more than 30 years. We have more than 3,500

employees in the U.S. and operate 14 sites in 11 U.S. sites, with our headquarters for the America's region in Houston. We have ambitious plans for further growth in the U.S., including a proposed \$10 billion manufacturing facility in Texas, via a joint venture with Exxon Mobile, which would feature the world's largest ethylene cracker.

As a global company, SABIC attaches high importance to clear enforceable rules for international trade, including for the protection of intellectual property. We are concerned, however, that the administration's proposed action and China's retaliation would have significant negative impact on our business in the U.S. The proposed additional tariffs, if applied, would undermine the competitiveness of our production in the U.S., damage the investment climate for the future expansion of domestic chemical manufacturing, and raise costs for customers and suppliers.

We provided separate business

confidential comments that outline the specific impact of the proposed action on our operations.

Today, I would like to outline in broad terms the reasons why the proposed U.S. action, if implemented, would lead to unintended consequences and result in disproportionate harm to one of the most competitive manufacturing sectors in the United States.

In the proposed U.S. action, we've seen that shale gas revolution has dramatically changed the economics of chemicals and plastics production in the U.S. We've gone from a high-cost producer to one of the most competitive in the world. This has resulted in massive new investment in domestic chemical manufacturing estimated by the American Chemistry Council to total more than \$190 billion across the industry. We are one of the companies leading the surge. We have identified North America as a priority region for future growth, as demonstrated by the recent formation of our joint venture with Exxon Mobile on the Gulf Coast. Several additional

projects are in the planning stage.

The concern that the proposed U.S. tariffs would undermine the value proposition for this expansion, some of the products on the proposed U.S. tariff list are important inputs to plant construction in the U.S. Imposing additional tariffs on the steel, iron, aluminum, and other equipment items would directly increase costs for new investment in chemical manufacturing.

In particular, SABIC calls for the exclusion of items beginning with HTS code 8419 from the proposed action. This HTS subheading includes large modules that form the building blocks for new construction of petrochemical manufacturing facilities by SABIC and other companies. This modular assembly helps to reduce construction costs and makes the building of multi-billion dollar chemical plants economically viable, particularly given the shortage of available skilled labor in the United States. We anticipate that future plant construction in the

U.S. will require up to 80 percent modularization.

The inclusion of these modules in the proposed action would have a major impact on current and future SABIC investment in the U.S., potentially resulting in planned projects either not going ahead or being constructed outside the U.S. Given the multi-decade operating life of these high-technology, high-wage facilities, the imposition of tariffs and items beginning with HTS code 8419 under the proposed action would risk significant economic losses across the country.

Turning to China's proposed

retaliation, as noted previously by the American

Chemistry Council, China's list of proposed

tariffs has a heavy focus on chemicals and

plastics. In part, that is likely a recognition

of the competitiveness of U.S. chemicals and

plastics manufacturing but it may also result in

U.S. manufacturers losing market share in China

to Chinese or other foreign manufacturers. SABIO

is a significant exporter of potentially affected products to China, particularly polycarbonate plastic. Specific numbers are included in our business confidential submission.

We manufacture polycarbonate in Mount Vernon, Indiana and Burkville, Alabama, locations that rely heavily on the good manufacturing jobs that we provide and that would suffer adverse effects from a prolonged disruption in demand due to higher Chinese tariffs.

If China implements the retaliatory tariffs, we would seek to maintain our market share in China but this may mean moving production out of the U.S. to our existing production facilities in other regions. This would have associated cost impacts for downstream industries in the U.S. such as automotive, electronics, and medical devices that currently source their polycarbonate from our U.S. production.

While it is not the intention of the administration's proposed action to bring

negative repercussions to companies manufacturing in the U.S., it is important to factor in the real world impact. Imposing tariffs on the imported modules that we and other companies use to construct new chemical plants in the U.S. would significantly undermine the business case for new investment and undermine economic growth and job creation in local communities.

Chemical and plastics manufacturing is one of the fastest growing industries in the U.S., with a large and growing trade surplus, yet the administration's proposed action and China's announced retaliation would disproportionately affect our industry and the numerous downstream sectors that we supply. SABIC urges the U.S. Government to avoid actions that would adversely affect our current operations and future growth in the United States.

Thank you.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Skelton.

Our final witness on this panel is

Josh Kallmer with the ITI Council. Mr. Kallmer,

you have five minutes.

MR. KALLMER: Thank you and thanks for having me here for this really important discussion.

TII is a collection of 66 of the world's most innovative companies, spanning the entire tech sector, hardware, software, services, internet. Every one of our companies is global. Virtually, every one of them does business in China or seeks to do business in China and so, as you can imagine, we have a lot of thoughts about the topic today.

I just have a few -- three points, actually, that I want to make and then I'll leave as much time as possible for questions.

The first is that we have strongly supported the administration initiating and carrying out this investigation. Ever since it joined the WTO and really well before, China has abused the privilege of being a member of the multilateral rules-based system and it is high time that others called them to account.

The report that USTR put out on March 22nd is as good of an example as there exists on the planet of a description of the tapestry of laws, regulations, and other measures that China enacts, often in unwritten form, to put the thumb on the competitive scale against non-Chinese companies and, in particular, fundamentally change the landscape for those trying to innovate and those trying to do business in the technology sector.

And so we commend the administration for taking a pretty significant step to try to redefine the relationship and it is a step that we have tried to be supportive of.

Being supportive of that includes being honest about what we view to be the appropriate way to proceed, especially when it comes to remedies. And this brings me to my second point, which is that tariffs are not the answer.

The reason tariffs are not the answer is because they are a tax. And as we have seen

throughout U.S. history, they simply don't work. The thing they do is create pain, create harm, create loss for U.S. industries and American workers. So, whether you're looking at the McKinley era, tariffs of the 1890s, or the Smoot Hawley tariffs of the 1930s, or the chicken tariffs, or the tariffs on steel in 2002, or on tires in 2009, it's hard to say that any of them succeeded in achieving the aims that the administration at the time was setting out to achieve.

The reason they don't work is because ultimately they hurt the very people that they are intended to help. So, the easy case are consumers. When tariffs are placed on consumer products, as they would be under the proposal that is on the table now, that results, simply put, in higher prices for ordinary Americans. So whether you're talking about televisions or dishwashers, or hand-held radios, those are higher prices that Americans pay for.

But in a way, it's the more subtle

impacts that are the most pernicious. And so it is the tariffs on inputs into products that are produced in the United States either for consumption in the United States or, more importantly, for production and export overseas to the 96 percent of the world's consumers that live outside the United States, where the pain is really felt. It's not just higher prices that consumers pay. It's reduced competitiveness in the companies for which they work. And that spells fewer jobs, fewer economic opportunities, fewer export markets.

And then you look at the impact on small businesses. For big companies, dealing with tariffs are a cost of doing business. For small businesses, they can be the difference between in existence and not.

Finally, a lot of unseen impacts on community health providers, on medical equipment, things like dialysis machines, communications gear, the kinds of things that first responders use, these are things where we have a public

interest in ensuring supply at affordable rates.

When we're talking about putting tariffs on those things, we're talking about reducing the supply.

There is a lot of discussion about potentially sourcing everywhere -- or excuse me, sourcing not from China but sourcing the things that would have tariffs slapped on them from places elsewhere around the globe, it's not that easy. The companies that are engaged both in the production of goods and supply of services have really complex global supply chains that cannot just be picked up and moved. Supply cannot just be rendered from another market. It takes years to renegotiate contracts. It takes years to move physical equipment.

And so the third point I would make, and I see my time is coming to a close, so I will conclude, is that there are other ways of doing this that we support and, in particular, tools involving multilateral pressure, coordination with key allies, doing things that are WTO-consistent that we think, on balance, would have

the greatest likelihood of success and help us 1 2 collective solve what is a deep structural and substantive problem that we are, again, very 3 4 supportive that the administration has decided to 5 try to address. 6 Thank you. 7 MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Kallmer. 8 Mr. Chairman, that concludes direct 9 testimony from this panel. 10 CHAIR TSAO: Okay, I will start the question with SBA. 11 12 MR. O'BYRNE: Mr. Brzytwa, we understand that small and medium-sized --13 14 MR. BISHOP: Can you speak more directly into your mike, please? 15 Thank you. 16 MR. O'BYRNE: We understand that small 17 and medium-sized enterprises account for over 50 18 percent of ACC's membership. Would you please 19 comment on whether or not you expect any 20 differential or disproportionate impacts on these 21 members versus your larger member companies? 22 Thank you for the MR. BRZYTWA:

question.

Yes, indeed, I think we anticipate our small and medium-sized members being disproportionately impacted because of the fact that they are having to either import products at higher costs or they're being locked out of markets. I mean for some of the companies, when they choose and export market, they really focus on an export market and if that market disappears, it makes things very difficult for them.

So I think, in just speaking with our members, I know how important the China market is. I know for some products it's ten percent of their overall exports. That would really undermine their operations in the long term if they were retaliated against -- if China retaliated against the United States' chemical companies.

MR. O'BYRNE: Thank you.

MR. SULBY: My question is for Linda

Dempsey. Ms. Dempsey, in your statement you

stated that urgent solutions are required to deal with the wide range of trade distortive activities in China.

What, in your view, are the steps that the United States should take in order to get the Chinese Government to negotiate and then implement solutions to these distortions in place of imposing the proposed tariffs?

MS. DEMPSEY: So, as I said in my testimony, we are very happy to see that the United States and China are at the negotiating table and that those negotiations will reconvene this week, looking at real solutions and trying to move quickly.

We believe that there are a whole host of issues, obviously, the ones identified in this investigation but manufacturers, obviously, have identified many more in various submissions to this administration. And we believe that we can come -- that the administration and China can come forward quickly to try to resolve some of those. There have been lots of attempts at

agreements before. There are fact sheets where China has agreed to things but has not bound itself. There are things that China is doing that we know that we could lock in quickly that would benefit manufacturers in a number of areas. We could see movement along those lines, as well as a staged approach to move forward as quickly as possible on the broad range of issues.

some will, obviously, be harder but, again, the attention and focus that this administration has brought to this issue I think has added to the ability to get China to the table. But as we've seen in past negotiations with China, in terms of other mechanisms, such as dealing with forced technology transfer, the United States has been negotiating on that issue before in the context of an investment treaty negotiation and the performance requirement discipline. And that discipline would be something that would really do a lot, combined with the national treatment, most-favored-nation treatment to require openness of the investment

climate in China really get, in a very strong way, at the technology transfer issues that we are looking at and have been documented in this investigation.

So we are for using all of those tools but also thinking much more innovatively about some of the challenges that have not been disciplined in other types of agreements or that we don't have a template for, things like intellectual property problems. Even where there is a good standard in China, our companies have shown concerns about whether they're getting a neutral dispute settlement forum in the Chinese court system if it's in the hometown of the company that they are bringing the case against. Are there ways that we can address those issues and create neutral patterns for moving forward?

And that's why we've made the recommendation that we really need to get to the table on a comprehensive, cohesive trade agreement-type approach that we do believe could be staged and moved quickly.

MS. SALZMAN: Thank you. My question is for both Mr. Bowen and Ms. Erickson Jones.

So you both highlighted in your statements the retaliation against U.S. agricultural products that is already being experienced as a result of recent U.S. trade enforcement actions.

What additional Chinese actions do you anticipate if the proposed tariffs are put in place?

MS. JONES: Thank you. Some of the additional actions that we are concerned about are not only increased tariffs but also non-tariff barriers to trade, including increased inspections, slowing down movement of goods through the ports, particularly the perishable goods, including fruit have been slowed down significantly, as well as canceling orders. Chinese companies have canceled orders for soybeans as well as in the grape and wine industry; they have also experienced cancellations in recent weeks.

And we are concerned that that 1 2 behavior will only escalate as the trade war escalates or as these threats of tariffs drag on. 3 MR. BOWEN: And I would second those 4 5 comments and also indicate that in addition to 6 the fresh produce sector, we're also seeing 7 things at the border with respect to products 8 like pork going into China. We are already 9 seeing that U.S. pork is now being sampled at 20 percent rather than the previous five percent as 10 11 it's entering China. 12 CHAIR BUSIS: Excuse me. Just a quick 13 follow-up on that. 14 What are the reasons that the Chinese 15 officials have given to our exporters with 16 respect to these new additional measures? 17 MR. BOWEN: I don't know that those 18 reports have at least filtered to us but we do 19 see that they are happening, at least at an anecdotal level. 20 21 MR. AMDUR: I have a question for Mr. Cohen. 22

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So you talked in your testimony that you weren't aware of any significant production of your similar products anywhere in the world outside of China. Could you explain a little more what you mean by significant production and where the production is actually taking place?

MR. COHEN: Sure. So primarily our tools are battery-powered and corded. plug them in. So typically, you would find them at a Home Depot or at Lowe's. The industry is relatively new, as a whole. And I think one of the challenges that we've seen with this 301 list that had come out is that where classified and sort of arcane codes that don't really apply to the tools that we make. I mean typically, we'll sell a garden cultivator or a snow thrower. meant for a small consumer home, a small home, you know urban area, typical footprint of a home.

For looking at production, there are no sources outside of China that made this pocket of inventory, other than petro or gas-powered equipment, which is something we don't produce.

So there are some domestic manufacturers that make gas heavy equipment but in our segment, it's been relatively new and it's grown so quickly that we don't think the HTS system has sort of caught up with all this new technology that has come out.

And that's been sort of I guess an unintended consequence of this list that had come out that we're sort of wrapped up into this.

It's not that there is a source to procure an electric snow blower. It just doesn't exist.

We've looked and they're not here.

CHAIR TSAO: This is Arthur Tsao,
USTR. This question is for Mr. Packard.

China has been a WTO member since 2001. If you believe in your opinion that China's forced tech transfer policy are inconsistent with the current WTO rules, why do you think that no previous U.S. administrations or any other WTO members, for that matter, have ever sought to challenge these measures before the WTO DSB?

MR. PACKARD: Thanks for the question. 1 2 I think that the United States has been reluctant. It is my understanding that the 3 4 United States has been reluctant to expand beyond 5 -- you know to challenge intellectual property practices under the TRIPS Agreement, in large 6 7 measure, because we needed China's support to 8 deal with broader geopolitical issues, 9 principally, perhaps North Korea. But it seems like there's been a separation in this 10 11 administration in the sense that we can now talk 12 about trade outside of the context of other 13 geopolitical issues. 14 So I think that that's been the primary reason. But again, I think that this --15 16 we don't know definitively on the TRIPS Agreement whether or not it would work but my point is we 17 18 should try it before we sort of throw it out. 19 And I think that that's the smarter approach than 20 acting unilaterally. 21 MS. PETTIS: Maureen Pettis,

Department of Labor. This is a question for Mr.

Skelton.

How would you propose -- how would the proposed tariff affect your workforce, in terms of job loss? You testified that SABIC has operated 14 sites in 11 U.S. States. Are there sites that will be hit harder than others?

MR. SKELTON: Thank you for the question.

Yes, the two sites that would be hit harder than others are our major polycarbonate manufacturing facilities in Mount Vernon, Indiana and in Burkville, Alabama. Mount Vernon is currently our largest U.S. manufacturing site, with more than 1,100 employees on-site.

Thank you.

MS. HOWE: My question is for Josh Kallmer.

You referenced studies about the economic costs of the 2002 and 2009 safeguard tariffs in terms of job loss and consumer welfare. Do you have or are you aware of any studies on the estimated economic cost of the

1	proposed tariff action?
2	MR. KALLMER: That's a great question.
3	We have been looking into it. I'd be happy to
4	come back to you with a sense of what we've found
5	because it has been something we've been digging
6	into. I can't give any chapter and verse here
7	but I'd be happy to do that. Great question.
8	CHAIR BUSIS: And a quick follow-up on
9	that. Are you aware of any studies about the
10	economic impact of China's forced technology
11	transfer policy or sort of other unfair trade
12	policies that was discussed in the Section 301
13	report?
14	MR. KALLMER: I'm sorry, I got a
15	little bit distracted.
16	CHAIR BUSIS: That's okay.
17	MR. KALLMER: Could you repeat the
18	first half of your question?
19	CHAIR BUSIS: Sure. Are you aware of
20	any economic studies that details the economic
21	cost of China's forced technology transfer

policies or the other policy and practices

	discussed in the USIR's report?
2	MR. KALLMER: Yes, so I have basically
3	the same response on that one. My colleague
4	reminds me that with respect to the first, there
5	is a study recently done by the Consumer
6	Technology Association and the National Retail
7	Federation that goes into the economic analysis
8	of the tariffs that are on the table now. We'd
9	be happy to pull that and provide it, if you
10	don't have it handy.
11	And then we'll take back the second
12	question, as well, and see what we can give you
13	there.
14	MR. BURCH: We thank this panel of
15	witnesses for their testimony. You may now be
16	dismissed.
17	And we'll take a brief ten-minute
18	break.
19	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
20	went off the record at 3:46 p.m. and resumed at
21	3:57 p.m.)
22	MR. BISHOP: Will the room please come

1	to order?
2	CHAIR TSAO: Good afternoon. We have
3	new members to the Section 301 Committee. So I
4	will ask each member to introduce themselves.
5	MR. SULBY: Ari Sulby, Department of
6	State.
7	MS. HOWE: Julia Howe, USTR.
8	CHAIR TSAO: Arthur Tsao, USTR.
9	MS. SALZMAN: Rachel Salzman,
10	Department of Commerce.
11	MS. MITCH: Sage Mitch, Treasury.
12	MS. PETTIS: Maureen Pettis,
13	Department of Labor.
14	MR. AMDUR: Alexander Amdur, Customs
15	and Border Protection.
16	MR. BISHOP: Our first witness on this
17	panel is Xinze Liu of the China General Chamber
18	of Commerce-USA. Mr. Liu, you have five minutes.
19	MR. LIU: Thank you.
20	On behalf of Chinese businesses you
21	asked the China General Chamber of Commerce
22	appreciates this opportunity to provide our

comments before this committee.

As of 2017, CGCC's 1,500 Chinese member companies have had over \$120 billion in tax revenues in the U.S. and directly employed more than 200,000 jobs, indirectly support over 1 million jobs throughout the U.S. It's our opinion that report made arbitrary assumptions of the facts to reach a predetermined conclusion without any actual evidentiary support.

The tariffs proposed in the report
will not only impede decades of progress towards
global free trade, but significantly hurt
American consumers, American businesses, American
jobs, and deter future foreign direct investment
into the United States.

The proposed actions in the report
would do more than harm than good to the United
States and create great uncertainty and
unpredictability to U.S.-Chinese business
relations. The report disregards the harm caused
to the American consumers and key export
industries in the U.S. and violates international

agreements.

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On behalf of Chinese enterprises, we are firmly against the findings and conclusions in the report. We oppose the use of tariff and investment restriction measures as tool for political gain.

First, evidence clearly shows that the proposed \$50 billion tariff measure will have significantly higher impact on U.S. consumers than it will hurt Chinese companies. sanction will hurt U.S. consumers for higher price to end consumers. For example, according to the U.S. Consumer Technology Association, about 47 percent of all TVs sold in the U.S. are imported from China, as are 83 percent of PC monitors and 34 percent of lithium batteries. After the proposed tariffs, American shoppers could expect to pay about 23 percent more for TV and like products. These products represent just a small portion of the 1,300 tech-related imports from China the 301 report has targeted.

More importantly, this does not only

affect the products that are made in China but the overall prices for these products across the board., since the retailers would spread their additional costs of other models.

For our TV example, the U.S. consumers could pay the additional \$711 million a year and cut back their total purchase by 7.8 percent.

Second, the tariff will hurt the development of related export industries in the United States. Many U.S. firms rely on imported components

from China. Increased tariffs would hurt their competitiveness in the global market. The currently published HTS of the United States for the steel industries, especially machinery manufacturing industries, contains a large number of the general machinery equipment such as elevators, boilers and baking ovens under the HTS headings beginning with number 840, 841, 842. The low added the value of these products effectively fills the gap in the U.S. domestic output.

As such, the high tariff imposed will 1 2 hurt the development of related industries. Lastly, the punitive measures from the 3 4 301 report violate WTO rules and disregard the 5 international rules and guidelines. tariff measures are unilateral behavior. 6 It was not authorized by WTO obligations and the rules. 7 8 We urge the U.S. and the Chinese governments to 9 continue with good faith, bilateral negotiation and dialog to settle disagreements. Chinese 10 investments in the United States have brought 11 12 substantial benefits to U.S. economical 13 development, government revenue, and job 14 creation. As a representative of the business community --15 16 MR. BISHOP: Mr. Liu, your time has 17 expired. Could you please wrap up? 18 Thank you. 19 MR. LIU: Thank you. 20 MR. BISHOP: Our next witness on this 21 panel is Jian Tan and Guiging Wang of the China Chamber of International Commerce. 22

Gentlemen, you have five minutes.

MR. JIAN: Thank you. I'm Tan Jian,
Deputy Director General of the IP Service Center
of China Chamber of International Commerce, which
represents 120 enterprises across all industries
and sectors in China.

action to increase tariffs on a list of Chinese goods -- Chinese products. First, the proposed action and underlying determination are inconsistent with both the international obligations and the domestic laws of the U.S. By levying an additional duty of 25 percent on Chinese products, the U.S. will act inconsistently with the WTO agreement, including Article 1, the most-favored-nation treatment; and 2, Schedule of Concessions of the GATT 1994, and Article 23 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding.

Moreover, by making determinations without recourse through the WTO dispute settlement procedure, the USTR appears to have

acted inconsistently with Section 303 and 304 of the Trade Act of 1974, as the present investigation does involve certain provisions of the WTO agreement.

Second, the underlying determination lacks factual basis and supporting evidence.

Foreign enterprises are not de jure or de facto forced to transfer technology in China. There is no causal link between foreign ownership restrictions and/or administrative approval processes, on the one hand, and technology transfer on the other.

B. There is no correlation between investment by Chinese enterprise in the United States and the Chinese industrial policies.

Chinese enterprise investment spreads widely across various U.S. industries and motivated by diverse reasons, all consistent with market principles.

The USTR's findings are based on inaccurate factual information and biased assessment of select cases, and disregard the

significant contribution of Chinese investment.

C. The U.S. and China share common cybersecurity challenges, which the two countries should collaborate hand-in-hand to deal with.

D. The USTR failed to provide any explanation for its sources and method of calculating the alleged 50 billion U.S. dollars of harm. Until the harm, if any, is accurately assessed, to implement the proposed action would inappropriate.

Third, the proposed action is not in the interest of the United States. As numerous interested parties have demonstrated, raising tariffs will not only hurt U.S. importers, retailers, and downstream industries, but also results in higher cost of living for ordinary Americans and put at risk millions of American jobs tied to trade with China.

The proposed action will also disrupt global industrial supply chain and undermine the multilateral trading system, both of which benefit the United States greatly.

Fourth, the proposed action is counterproductive for purposes of resolving U.S. concerns. Should the U.S. implement the proposed action, it will lead to nothing but confrontation between the two countries.

Fifth, cooperation is only appropriate way to resolve differences. China and the U.S. share a wide range of common interests and goals, which furnish a sound basis for reaching mutually acceptable solutions and, moreover, to resolve differences in a constructive way is supported by public opinion in the U.S. and is expected by the international community.

In conclusion, the proposed action is, first, inconsistent with U.S. international obligation and the domestic laws; 2) unsupported by fact and evidence; 3) not in the U.S. national interest; 4) counterproductive for purpose of resolving differences; and 5) contrary to popular opinion.

The USTR should decline to take such action. Thank you.

MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Tan.

Our next witness is John Tang of DHH Washington, D.C. law office. Mr. Tang, you have five minutes.

MR. TANG: Good afternoon and thank you for this committee for this opportunity to speak. I am a partner at DHH Law Firm. We are a global law firm with about 1,100 attorneys and 30-some offices worldwide.

ourselves and our clients, we plead with this committee to reevaluate its proposed additional 25 percent tariff across the board on approximately 1,300 products from China, which is approximately \$50 billion in new taxes. This action would be detrimental to the U.S. economy, compounded with the fact that this action would not resolve the alleged intellectual property violations. We request that this committee reconsider the onerous, unjust, arbitrary taxation proposed.

First, the proposed action does not

address the alleged IP issues identified in the 301 report. As a U.S.-licensed attorney with many Western clients in China, I believe that intellectual property is one of the most important aspects of doing business anywhere but there is absolutely no correlation between the proposed additional tariffs and the alleged intellectual property issues in the report. The methodology for identifying the 1,300 products is completely arbitrary. It does not even consider protecting IP rights, technology transfer, or innovation.

In other words, the proposed remedy does not the issues presented. Instead, those companies that are subject to the additional 25 percent tax, their downstream customers, and the end user all have to be burdened with the additional tax for nothing they did wrong.

For example, I have a client that manufactures electrohydraulic steering pump assembly. The HTS code for that is 8413.60.0030. It ships to its own subsidiary in the U.S., which

then finishes the product and supply it to be used in the Jeep Wrangler. This company employs 26 people in the suburbs of Detroit and has already invested over \$6 million in its operations. It is an active member of the community and does not participate in any of the alleged IP issues identified in the 301 investigations. Yet, due to the 25 percent tax increase, this company would either have to withdraw its investments in the U.S., which means job losses in one of the toughest cities in America, or pass on that cost to its customer, which ultimately mean an increase in price of the Jeep Wrangler. My client is just one example in one industry.

Second, the proposed action in the report would not resolve the issues identified in the report. The conclusion in the report are based on flawed presumptions and ignore the facts. The main flaw is this presumption that the Chinese Government controls the actions of the Chinese companies. Chinese investment in

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U.S. technology, Chinese acquisition of U.S. technology, the formation of joint venture partners between U.S. and China counterparts are based on a market-driven need. U.S. companies often need capital infusion and Chinese companies often need new product lines.

A report by the Rhodium Group found that in 2017, private investors from China accounted for about 90 percent of the investment in the U.S. In other words, the Chinese Government does not have control over this market.

As a side note, if the tariffs were to actually succeed in limiting Chinese investment in U.S. technology, this would be counterproductive to the fostering of innovation in the U.S. Chinese investments are a major source of capital and venture capital markets in the U.S., especially in Silicon Valley. If this source of capital is stopped, then many innovations will not even exist.

Third, the proposed action would be

detrimental to the U.S. economy. Aside from not actually addressing or resolving the issues identified in the 301 investigations, the proposed action would be detrimental to the U.S. economy. The reciprocal sanctions from China on American agriculture, chemicals, cars, and aircraft products will be felt throughout the U.S.

China has already imposed tariffs on about \$3 billion of U.S. products and plans another \$50 billion on 106 U.S. products. The president of the Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai warned, in his comments to the Section 301 investigation last year, and I quote, politically driven actions, such as imposing broad tariffs, are likely to result in equally brought counteraction by the Chinese Government. A tit for tat trade war would be damaging for all parties.

For example, one of the prominent products that the Chinese would put restrictions on is soybeans. China is the largest soybean

1 importer in the world, with \$34 billion worth 2 last year. A third of that was from the U.S. However, the looming 25 percent import tax on 3 4 U.S. soybean imports will harm states like 5 Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Indiana, Nebraska, and Ohio. 6 Additionally, as previously addressed, 7 American consumers would be the ultimate payer of 8 the increase of 25 percent tax. 9 For example, according to the U.S. Consumer Technology Association, about 47 percent 10 11 of all TVs sold in the U.S. are imported from 12 After the proposed tariffs, American 13 shoppers could expect to pay about 23 percent 14 more for their TVs. In dollar figures, that means U.S. consumers could pay an additional \$711 15 16 million a year for their TVs. The key point is 17 that --18 MR. BISHOP: Mr. Tang, your time has 19 expired. If you could wrap up, please. 20 MR. TANG: Okay, I'm sorry.

committee to consider the negative effects of the

In conclusion, our law firm urges this

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proposed actions on us, as U.S. taxpayers and businesses, and urge an alternative negotiated resolution with the Chinese Government over the intellectual property concerns.

Thank you.

MR. BISHOP:

Thank you, Mr. Tang. Our next witness is Guiging Wang with the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products. And Frank Mou, interpreter for Mr. Wang.

Gentlemen, you have five minutes.

MR. WANG: Thank you. Good afternoon. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear at today's hearing. I am Guiging Wang, Vice President of China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products, or CCCME, which now has nearly 10,000 member companies.

I would like to make the following As for the report of the 301 comments. investigation, China does not have any existing laws preparing for in coming years to transfer

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technology to their Chinese partners. Companies in China have rarely chosen their business partners and their projects. All business activities, including technology transfers are decisions made by the free will of the executive running the business and mildly driven by the market. Besides this, China will continue its open door policy. President Xi Jinping announced a series of new measures on April 10th, including opening the market access, reaching a more attractive investment environment, stronger protection of intellectual property rights, and expanding imports.

Imports and tariffs more than \$300 per tax will harm a large number of Chinese companies, as well as U.S. companies. More than 38,000 companies in China will be affected, including many U.S. companies doing business in China. They comply with the laws when conducting their business and should without intervention from the government. They have done nothing wrong, as accused by this 301 investigation.

However, they become the innocent victims, which is unfair for these companies.

Should the tariffs be imposed, the U.S. retailers and the distributors will be faced with many challenges, including shortage of goods, loss of competitive advantages, and the reduction of coverage profits, and consumers will bear the burden of increased price and the high cost of living.

Additional tariffs will also lead to adjustments in the supply chain and breaking the trade chain because many U.S. manufacturers purchase the components and the materials from China. Thus, it will increase the cost which will carve down the profit and then cause the shutdown of certain companies.

The impacts on companies will also shift to many of U.S. workers. The pressure of increased cost will eventually be passed on to hundreds of millions of U.S. consumers.

Therefore, they will be the innocent victims, too.

We noticed that after the U.S. 1 2 released the proposed list, the Government of China also released a corresponding list in the 3 4 response. If the trade war ever starts, more 5 U.S. and Chinese companies will suffer. In summary, import tariffs cannot 6 7 solve any problems mentioned in the report and it 8 cannot address the trade deficit either. 9 Instead, it will only hurt innocent companies and the consumers in both countries. 10 11 We urge the U.S. Government to listen 12 to the wisest of people. Takes the concerns of the companies into account and reconsider the 13 14 tariff proposals. 15 We look forward to the two governments 16 strengthening consultations to resolve 17 differences and achieve positive outcomes. 18 Thank you. 19 MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Wang. 20 Our final witness on this panel is Bo 21 Yi of Southeast University Law School. Mr. Yi,

you have five minutes.

MR. YI: Thank you for saving time. I directly start my testimony on the second page of formal statement.

Good afternoon distinguished

chairperson and members of the 301 Committee. My

name is Bo Yi, Associate Professor of

International Trade Law at Southeast University

Law School, China.

I would like to give my warmest thanks for the opportunity. I am pleased to submit this oral argument.

My opinion is that the United States should be obligated under international trade law to bring the dispute to the WTO under a settlement understanding, not to unilaterally claim against China and to impose additional tariffs under its domestic law for the following reasons.

Firstly, WTO's dispute settlement
mechanism promised WTO members to bring trade
dispute involving the WTO agreements and, again,
as the members of the WTO, instead of resorting

to unilateral trade-related action. However,
Section 301 allows the USTR to implement traderelated matter without following formal WTO
dispute settlement processes, if USTR determines
that the conduct encroaching does not involve a
trade agreement.

In 1994, when the United States became one of the original members of WTO, the United States Government issued one statement of administrative action. Most importantly, the statement indicated that the United States would welcome applying Section 301 in a manner which would cover its WTO obligations, indicating that if a Section 301 investigation involves a relation of a WTO agreement, the United States is committed to pursuing formal dispute settlement before the WTO.

In USTR's final report, it concluded that certain acts, policies, and practices of China Government related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation are unreasonable or discriminatory and burden or

restrict U.S. Commerce. And USTR law proposes to impose a 25 percent duty covered about United States \$50 billion was of China exports to the United States.

And it is the United States position - appears to be that is unnecessary to bring the
instant dispute to WTO's settlement mechanism.

However, USTR also announced it had requested
consultations with China. This announcement
seems to indicate that the USTR considers that at
least some of conducting investigated during the
Section 301 investigation involves a trade
agreement and, therefore, requests resort to the
WTO's Dispute Settlement Body.

In accordance with Article 23,
paragraph 1 of the Dispute Settlement
Understanding of WTO, you can reference footnote,
the WTO rules do not permit the United States to
unilaterally claim against China and impose
additional tariffs without also position from
WTO's Dispute Settlement Body. And the Section
301 tariffs could eventually result in

retaliatory tariffs from China.

Lastly, if Section 301 investigation does not involve a trade agreement, it will also be ruled and regulated by non-violation claims in GATT WTO jurisprudence. You can read from my first paragraph for saving my time directly on the second paragraph. Thank you.

Because Section 301 investigation does not involve a trade agreement, it is form available to address unfair practices from China that do not relate to the United States regs or delaying benefit under WTO agreement.

In other words, it is unnecessary to resort to dispute settlement processes of WTO when Section 301 investigation does not involve a trade agreement. However, under these circumstances, Section 301 investigation will also be ruled and regulated by non-violation claims in GATT WTO jurisprudence, which means that Section 301 investigation which was not ruled by WTO trade agreement could be claimed by China by virtue of non-violation notification or

	impairment doctrine in GAII wio. You can				
2	reference Article 23 of GATT 1994.				
3	In conclusion with Article 23 of GATT				
4	1994, the results of Section 301 investigation to				
5	China's practice does not relate to the WTO rules				
6	or is not subjected by WTO laws. It is also be				
7	constructed as one matter, whether or not if				
8	conflicted with WTO dispute settlement				
9	understanding and China will have legal right to				
10	start the implementation of non-violation				
11	complainants against the United States under WTO				
12	laws.				
13	That is all. Thanks for listening. I				
14	will be happy to answer your questions.				
15	MR. BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Yi.				
16	Mr. Chairman, that concludes direct				
17	testimony from this panel.				
18	CHAIR TSAO: Thank you. Department of				
19	Commerce, you have the first question.				
20	MS. SALZMAN: Thank you. This				
21	question is for Mr. Wang.				
22	MR. BISHOP: Pull your mike a little				

closer, if you would, please. 1 Thank you. 2 MS. SALZMAN: This is Rachel Salzman, Department of Commerce and this question is for 3 4 Mr. Wang. 5 You mentioned in your testimony that setting up joint ventures in China is a voluntary 6 7 action. Doesn't China's Foreign Investment 8 Catalogue have an entire category of restricted 9 sectors, whereby foreign ownership is limited and 10 joint ventures are required? 11 MR. WANG: Thank you for your 12 question. 13 The proportion of the ownership of the 14 joint equity ventures is public available information. It is open and transparent. 15 16 this regulation does not violate WTO's 17 regulation. 18 And thirdly, this regulation only 19 covers certain sectors of industry. It does not 20 apply to all joint ventures. In fact, it is a 21 common practice that many countries all have such

restrictions for their certain sectors of the

industry when the foreign companies invest into these sectors.

As far as I know, United States has such restrictions and you have scrutinies for investment based on the national security concerns. Because they only cover certain sectors of industries, we are still willing to sit down and negotiate and discuss.

April the 10th, Chinese President Xi
Jinping made it clear that China will continue
its open door policy and it will even relax the
entrance of the market, and encourage the
investment, and further improve the investment
environment.

Let me state one more time that this restriction only covers certain sectors of industry and we are willing to negotiate with the department concerned in those sectors.

And also, this is not directly related to the technology transfer. There was no mandatory technological transfer.

Thank you for your question.

CHAIR TSAO: Just a quick follow-up,

sir.

Why are certain sectors -- why would the investment restrictions apply to certain sectors but not others?

MR. WANG: Maybe it would be better for me to answer your question if you can give me an example.

CHAIR TSAO: Oh, no, there's no specific examples. But he did mention that the rules apply to only certain sectors but not others and I'm curious to see what the reasons are.

MR. WANG: Let me give you an example. Let me give you an example of the sector that was covered in the 301 investigation. It is the agricultural products. Even though that's not in my industry as a CCCME, as you know that China is the largest agricultural country in the world. So the security of the grain supply is vital to the survival of the country and stability of the country. And I think if there is any problem in

1 the food supply to China, it will not only 2 disrupt the Chinese security but also the stability of the world. So that's why China set 3 the limits for the investment into the 4 5 agricultural sectors. And I think this shows the Chinese 6 7 responsibility for the security of its own 8 country and also for the stability of the world. 9 I have more examples but I think this 10 one may be adequate. 11 Thank you. 12 CHAIR TSAO: Thank you. Thank you for 13 your response. 14 MR. AMDUR: I am Alexander Amdur, U.S. 15 Customs and Border Protection. Ouestion for Mr. 16 Tan. 17 You state in your testimony that 18 United States and China share common 19 cybersecurity challenges. Can you give some 20 examples or give us some more details about this? 21 MR. TAN: Yes, can I just let my 22 assistant Mr. Ren Qing to answer this question?

MR. REN: First, I want to thank you for the question. I would like to clarify that your question is about not that China and the United States can cooperate and address the challenge. Is that your question?

MR. AMDUR: No, I'm just asking about the language, the specific testimony, the written testimony which states the United States and China share common cybersecurity challenges. If you could, give some more details about which challenges you're referring to.

MR. REN: Okay, thank you very much.

I can recall that in last September and October there are questions from the Section 301 Committee about what kind of common challenges in this area. We have provided many examples to demonstrate that in China -- I mean to ensure that -- to address that Chinese companies also face cybersecurity challenge. The trade secrets and other confidential information also have been stolen or otherwise inferenced by some sort of parties, including from our side of

In our submission last October, we 1 China. 2 provided the detailed written information in this regard. 3 4 If you would like to have a look, we 5 can provide to you in our written submission after this hearing. 6 Thank you. 7 MR. AMDUR: It's really up to you. Ιf 8 you believe that is sufficient and that is 9 already on the record, that's fine. Thank you. 10 MR. TANG: Thank you. 11 MR. SULBY: My question is for Mr. 12 Liu. Could you expand upon your argument that increasing tariffs on Chinese imports would raise 13 14 costs on other similar products that would not be subject to the tariffs? Why exactly do you 15 16 believe that retailers would spread their 17 additional cost to other models, rather than just 18 passing the cost of the tariffs onto purchasers 19 of Chinese goods? So I think it's about 20 MR. LIU: industries or the tax. So maybe to funnel to 21 22 consumers accept the tax to some things.

So about the industries, I think maybe 1 2 let Mr. Wang help me to answer you. Okay, that will be fine. 3 MR. SULBY: MR. LIU: Yes, would you mind if Mr. 4 5 Wang answer your question? MR. SULBY: Not at all. 6 Please. 7 MR. WANG: Let's say there are two 8 similar products and the one product is subject 9 to the proposed tariff, additional tariff, then to the market there would be only the other 10 11 product available. Even though the supply volume 12 may remain the same but because more purchasers 13 want this product. So it will cause the prices 14 going up. Also, if I may add, we 15 MR. TANG: 16 heard from Panel 5's testimony that they have 17 seen that when the Chinese import prices were 18 increased, causing those products to have a price 19 increase in the market, they have seen American 20 manufacturers actually raise their prices just to 21 match. So that increases prices for that

particular product, really no matter where it's

manufactured.

And to answer your question about the retailers, we have clients of the law firm that has retailers and their practice is if one of their product has an increase in cost, in order to spread that cost around and ensure that they have a sufficient profit margin, they'll spread that cost amongst many other products. So you'll see that you won't only affect the particular product that is taxed but it will affect a related product from that particular retailer.

CHAIR TSAO: And just for the record, that was Mr. John Tang.

This question is for Mr. John Tang.

You had testified that the conclusion in the USTR

Section 301 report is based on flawed

presumptions and ignore the facts. But as you

know, it is a 200-page document with I think over

a thousand footnotes and a detailed examination

of Chinese laws and regulations.

Do you have any specific examples of where the conclusions in the report or findings

in the report are actually -- are flawed or based 1 2 on -- or ignore the facts or based on flawed presumptions? 3 4 MR. TANG: I don't have specific 5 examples at this point but I would definitely supplement that in my post-hearing comments. 6 7 the general idea is that there are certain facts 8 that we look at that there can be two 9 explanations for it. And we have heard testimony back in 10 11 October as to both sides but there is really no 12 way to -- how do you say -- to prove either 13 testimony -- the accuracy of the evidence given. 14 And if you can't -- I'm sorry, I'm an attorney. But if you can't show that the evidence is based 15 16 on solid fact, you can't submit that evidence and 17 reach a conclusion when there is two possible 18 reasons that leads you to a final point. 19 MR. REN: I supplement answers from 20 Mr. Tang about --21 CHAIR TSAO: This is Mr. Ren. 22 MR. REN: Yes, thank you.

In our written submission, written comments -- this time we prepared 220 pages of written comments. In our written comments, we provide the comments and the findings of the so-called forced technology transfer and also we provide comments regarding the Chinese outbound investments in the United States.

In our comments, we provided concrete examples which was used in the Section 301 report by the United States Trade Representative Office which are not factually correct or the facts cannot support the final findings.

I can give you some examples. For example, regarding the connection, the alleged connection between administrative approval process in China and the alleged forced technology transfer, in the Section 301 report, the USTR appears to consider that in China all of the FIE projects or the establishment of foreign investment enterprises needs to be approved by the Chinese Government. That is not correct.

In 2016, China implemented a reform in

this area. Most of the foreign investment
enterprises will need only to go through a
record-finding process according to the
statistics of the Minister of Commerce of China.
Now, only four percent of the establishment of
FIE need to be approved by the Government. Only
four percent. This is one example.

The second example is about the Chinese outbound investment. In this Section 301 report of the United States -- USTR, one example used by USTR to suggest that the Chinese outbound investment is encouraged by the Chinese Government as a means to acquire foreign advanced technology is that it is a policy of international industrial capacity cooperation. However, it is well-known that most of the industries for which the Chinese Government encourages international industrial capacity cooperation are those industries where Chinese companies enjoy competitive advantages. You can look closely at the policy document. mention those industries where they encourage

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industrial international cooperation.

For example, they mention the sectors of textile, construction materials, railway equipment, electricity infrastructures. All these industries are those that Chinese companies enjoy competitive advantages. The purpose is to encourage. It is not acquire. They find technology to share the Chinese technology with other countries.

For the sake of time, I only give you two examples. There are many examples in our written comments. Thank you.

CHAIR TSAO: Thank you, sir, for your response.

And the last question is for Professor
Bo Yi. Professor, you have testified on numerous
legal issues with respect to the WTO agreement.
And you also may be aware that the Government of
China has also announced that it intends to
impose a \$50 billion -- impose additional tariffs
on \$50 billion of U.S. exports.

In your opinion, if China, the

Government of China imposed these tariffs without going the WTO dispute settlement process, would such measure be consistent with China's WTO obligation?

MR. YI: Thanks for your question.

Because according to China foreign trade law it provided that if China face unfair treatment without resolve the trade dispute by much natural trade dispute because China has its domestic law to initiate the retaliatory tariffs from foreign countries that is domestic law provisions.

But however, because China also initiate the WTO dispute case which number is 543, which means that China would like to resolve the trade dispute between United States under the much natural trade dispute mechanism under the framework of WTO law.

Yes, for your question you mentioned that whether China will let the WTO rules but my opinion is that because at current China's activity is against the United States unilaterally claim against China's export

1	production to America, which means that the China				
2	Government attitude and opinion is to find the				
3	proper methods to resolve this dispute				
4	settlement.				
5	But in my opinion, both countries are				
6	members of the WTO. To use WTO dispute				
7	settlement mechanism to resolve their dispute				
8	settlement, that is a proper method.				
9	CHAIR TSAO: Thank you for your				
10	response.				
11	Okay, I'd like to thank the panel				
12	again. And we've completed Panel 6. I would				
13	also like to thank all the witnesses who have				
14	traveled far to be here today.				
15	The proceeding is adjourned until				
16	tomorrow morning at 0900. Thank you.				
17	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter				
18	went off the record at 4:51 p.m.)				
19					
20					
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A
a.m 1:11 6:2 63:7
Aaron 2:20 4:17 126:9 126:13
abandoned 255:22
abides 130:15
abilities 37:21 ability 33:8 37:4 57:2
58:8 61:22 62:1 77:17
99:1 140:4 145:16,17 155:20 172:13 179:13
193:15 202:17,20
212:14 217:14 245:5
273:12 able 32:4 33:14 56:21
60:18 62:13 68:4
102:18 105:3 108:10
108:15,21 119:21 125:10 133:21 148:22
155:6 190:18 210:11
211:20 228:8
above-entitled 63:6 114:2 167:11 222:15
282:19 320:17
above-referenced 39:4 abroad 247:16
absolutely 12:19 51:13
119:6 165:9 216:20 217:4 293:6
absorb 110:1 220:4
233:17
absorbed 153:22 220:2 abused 265:20
abuses 250:20
abusive 251:13
Academy 52:5 ACC 230:20 232:17
233:9,15
ACC's 232:3 270:18 accept 35:20 312:22
acceptable 291:10
accepted 9:20
access 42:10 87:6 97:18 130:18 145:10
196:22 197:2 225:4
233:3 254:2 299:10 accessed 144:17
accessed 144:17 accessible 135:14
accession 241:22
250:12,22 251:6 accessories 126:21
accident 34:10
accommodate 161:18
210:12 accompanied 249:2
accompany 51:20
accomplish 136:12
177:16

```
account 94:14 140:15
  191:4 253:11 265:22
 270:17 301:13
accountable 40:19
 46:20
accounted 83:5 99:21
 295:9
accounting 253:15
accounts 232:3
accredited 124:2
  137:10
accuracy 315:13
accurate 21:5
accurately 290:8
accused 299:22
Ace 211:22
achieve 87:22 125:12
  126:2 221:9 267:11
 301:17
achieves 235:17
achieving 267:9
acquire 317:13 318:7
acquired 207:5
acquisition 295:1
act 73:7 106:5,15
  198:21 247:10 248:19
 251:14 254:9 288:14
 289:2
acted 289:1
acting 11:18 65:16
  101:21 109:5 279:20
action 7:12,13,19 8:2
 8:10 16:21 47:1,20
 54:19 55:20 58:22
 59:8 61:7 73:22 75:10
 76:7 86:4,8 88:19
 89:6,8,21 94:2 127:22
  193:6 194:1 200:11
 202:5 207:2 247:3
 249:1,3 257:7 258:17
 259:14 260:2,5,9
 261:13 262:4,11
 263:22 264:12 281:1
 288:8,10 290:9,11,19
 291:1,4,14,22 292:16
 292:17,22 294:16
 295:22 296:4 303:1
 303:10 307:7
actionable 7:1.7
actions 16:22 19:9 23:1
 27:10 43:10,12 44:6
 46:8 55:5 227:6
 242:19,22 247:12
 264:16 275:7,8,12
```

284:16 294:21 296:15

active 18:21 144:15,22

189:15 294:5

298:1

actively 43:15 86:9 activities 20:18 242:10 242:16 272:3 299:4 activity 93:13 319:21 acts 6:8,20 7:6 176:12 231:13 303:19 actual 73:17 92:13 244:9 256:8 284:9 add 13:12 18:5 48:21 72:12 75:10 76:8,13 91:9 95:7 100:18 110:6 179:3 181:13 197:17 313:15 added 28:3 81:15 122:16 123:14 143:1 173:4 178:12 193:22 273:12 286:20 adding 29:8 49:8,13 83:14 91:15 95:3 181:20 215:7 addition 16:14 17:4 29:7 50:8 76:12 77:13 79:18 95:6 124:2 133:14 134:4 162:3 178:13 189:6 207:16 210:13 220:15 276:5 additional 7:14 17:3 29:20 36:21 49:10 50:8,20 58:9 61:8 72:15 76:9 79:5 81:8 82:21 83:2 88:13 89:18 90:5 93:11 100:19 105:15 110:14 117:7 128:1 130:3 144:2 147:1 149:21 159:4 173:6 211:19 212:20 215:15 216:1 216:16 225:21 226:7 226:19 227:4,19 233:22 254:14 259:16 260:22 261:7 275:8 275:12 276:16 286:4 286:6 288:13 292:12 293:7,15,18 297:15 300:10 302:16 304:20 312:17 313:9 318:20 Additionally 128:17 174:17 176:15 297:6 additions 38:13 additives 197:14 address 18:2 27:10 28:16 46:19 49:20 51:11 58:14,20,21 59:7 73:4 79:7 80:14 81:3 83:15 90:7 118:12,22 127:10,15 130:18 136:2 184:20 185:4 196:18 198:7

225:6 228:5 239:4 242:19 243:19 246:2 247:12,19 250:1,13 251:12 254:5 270:5 274:16 293:1 301:8 305:10 311:4,18 addressed 175:18 185:1 202:1 226:15 228:6 247:1 249:6.18 297:6 addresses 17:18 84:4 addressing 82:20 131:7 132:21 236:20 241:5 241:8 296:2 adds 20:19 adequate 310:10 adjacent 72:4 Adjourn 5:19 adjourned 320:15 adjustments 128:9 300:11 administration 1:15,19 11:13 12:1 20:6 38:11 47:7,15 48:7 65:10 73:2 86:11 88:18 89:22 91:9 130:8.13 131:5 135:22 168:8 185:16 190:4 216:10 223:2 225:6 227:17 228:4 236:16,21 239:2,5 243:7 245:22 251:17 254:1 258:9 265:17 266:11 267:10 270:4 272:19.20 273:11 279:11 administration's 43:12 46:22 70:22 86:7,19 119:20 127:10,22 131:3 201:14 224:1 224:10 244:1 249:20 254:5 258:17 259:13 263:22 264:12 administrations 278:19 administrative 8:13 249:1 289:10 303:10 316:15 **Adobe** 59:12 adopted 81:17 advance 128:8 224:10 advanced 87:18 89:18 133:8,12 200:7 317:13 advantage 36:11 99:11 123:8 153:11 172:19 192:8 204:6 228:8 230:9 257:22 advantages 183:12 300:6 317:20 318:6

advent 121:12 adverse 83:16 252:3 263:8 adversely 95:9 134:21 264:16 advertising 144:20 **Advisors** 1:17 168:2 advocated 19:8 **aerospace** 2:17 4:6 18:13,19 19:1,7,14,19 19:21,22 20:4,7,13,15 21:1,4,10,21 22:6 23:5 52:19 61:7 62:4 Affairs 11:19 12:7 65:6 65:17 101:22 120:16 126:14 affect 38:10 58:8,11,22 59:8 134:5,21 264:14 264:17 280:3 286:1 314:9,10 affiliated 146:18 affirmative 250:16 afford 130:6 226:7 affordable 121:18 122:13.19 235:7 238:10 269:1 after-market 158:12 aftermarket 129:21 152:4 afternoon 64:19 65:1 65:15.18 66:2 70:16 76:1 80:20 85:21 105:19 120:14 126:12 131:17 136:22 142:2 167:16 188:11.17 194:11 222:18 234:20 252:10 258:15 283:2 292:5 298:12 302:4 ag 224:22 225:7,19,21 agencies 11:4,4 28:22 85:15 175:10 agency 6:6 8:14 9:19 aggregate 147:11 aggregates 150:20 aggressive 19:13 37:2 170:15 204:9 213:11 247:20 aggressively 14:14 89:15 244:8 ago 45:16 110:17 170:19 189:15 203:11 219:4,14 235:5 agree 102:8 118:8 217:7 231:1 249:19 agreed 248:4,7 273:2 agreement 40:1 60:21 243:13,15 248:18 250:11,15 251:5

279:6,16 288:15 289:4 303:6,15 304:13 305:3,9,12,16 305:21 318:17 agreement-type 274:21 agreements 145:6 183:11 247:13 248:19 248:22 249:5,17 251:9 273:1 274:8 285:1 302:21 agrees 223:22 agribusiness 252:19 agricultural 35:21 230:15 233:10 245:16 245:18 252:22 253:17 275:5 309:17,19 310:5 agriculture 2:6 5:9 223:9,16 224:4,12,15 224:16 225:2 226:9 227:8 228:7 253:4,6 253:15 256:9 296:6 ahead 15:2 63:3 167:7 262:7 Ahlin 2:4 4:11 63:12.13 65:22 66:1.2.3 70:13 106:20 107:3,7,12,20 aimed 117:16 **aims** 122:21 267:9 air 2:7 5:2 34:15,20 35:1 38:16 57:20 121:11 129:21 152:14 153:9 168:18 169:4 169:20 170:8 171:14 171:22,22 172:4,9,10 172:17,18,22 173:2 173:14 174:6 176:22 215:7 217:20,22 218:4 aircraft 20:11 21:22 22:13,17 27:2 296:7 airgun 174:10 Airport 72:2 **AISC** 94:12 aisle 104:8 **Alabama** 96:4 169:13 263:6 280:12 albeit 56:5 244:18 **Alex** 64:17 157:4.9 **Alexander** 1:14 12:9 64:20 65:2 106:18 168:12 209:14,18 223:12 283:14 310:14 align 40:11 alleged 122:21 250:19 290:7 292:18 293:1,7

allies 243:1 269:21 allocation 12:18 allow 32:13 56:5 85:8 145:9 155:21 182:6 193:3 allowance 36:16 allowed 10:17 39:9 60:3 84:21 119:19 176:19 177:6 190:13 192:14 198:1 249:2 allowing 93:21 100:3 174:3 182:7 199:17 212:19 allows 75:3 212:20 303:2 alloy 204:11 almonds 255:2 alter 37:3 alternate 154:16 alternative 16:17 79:21 84:8 129:9 134:8,11 155:18 234:12 298:2 alternatively 162:3 alternatives 135:4 186:19 238:16 AlterSciences 2:10 4:8 39:15 58:19 altogether 38:4 aluminum 116:12 117:5 149:18 150:19 172:2 225:17 254:22 261:7 amazingly 40:1 ambiguous 138:21 ambitious 259:3 **Amdur** 1:14 12:8.9 53:16,17,21 64:19,20 65:1,2 106:18,18 107:4,8,18 157:4,4,9 157:9,18,21 158:2,6 158:16 159:2 168:12 168:12 209:14,14,18 209:19 221:2 222:10 223:12,12 276:21 283:14,14 310:14,14 311:6 312:7 amend 120:6 America 2:18 4:17 18:22 32:17 35:5 48:2 70:3 106:5 120:8.12 120:17 123:11 161:5 171:1 184:10 206:20 241:7 258:4 260:19 294:12 320:1 America's 121:3 123:1 161:12 230:10 252:21 259:3 American 2:9,11,14,21 4:9 5:3,4,9 23:22

24:10 28:6,10 33:8 43:3,7,13 44:3 46:16 47:2,3,9 48:4,8 70:7 80:6 91:6 92:17,18 107:5 117:1,2 120:4 121:13,19 122:2 124:20 125:8,9 126:2 135:14 136:15 139:2 141:16 142:20 145:18 146:17 151:6 170:9 178:3,8,9 182:10 183:9 184:3 188:8,20 189:20,21 190:7,15 191:2,14 193:5,7,10 193:17 194:3 205:4 206:11 208:4 211:12 211:20 226:9 228:14 228:17 231:22 235:1 235:20 236:2,12 249:12 253:6,18,21 254:19 260:16 262:15 267:3 284:13,13,13 284:21 285:17 290:17 296:6 297:7,12 313:19 American-made 66:11 **Americans** 122:14.19 124:18 125:12 130:6 134:22 161:5,19 193:9 235:6,16 267:18,21 290:17 **Americas** 2:8 4:5 13:2,7 13:14 15:15 18:8 amount 32:14 129:2 135:8 152:19 166:9 amounts 73:19 116:7 **ample** 91:20 113:8 214:15 250:12 **AMSC** 4:9 43:15 44:4,8 44:9,9,12 45:2,8,16 46:13 47:17 **AMSC's** 43:18,21 44:18 44:20 45:1,6,14 46:10 55:20 **Amy** 1:16 11:14 65:18 105:19 analysis 135:11 186:8 282:7 analysts 175:9,14 anchor 77:11 and/or 163:17 289:10 **Andrew** 223:8 anecdotal 276:20 anecdotally 21:17 **angles** 14:15 angry 117:21 annex 138:12 231:11

294:7 316:14,16

alleviate 129:15

231:18

	1	i	1
anniversary 194:22	apply 99:19 134:20	212:3 222:21 278:13	235:22
announced 7:5,12	185:13 277:14 307:20	283:8	attaches 259:9
87:11 97:7 119:14	309:4,11	article 42:3 248:11	attack 225:8
123:10 225:17 229:7	applying 190:22 303:12	250:22 288:16,18	attacks 28:2 86:6 87:9
264:13 299:8 304:8	appreciate 13:8 42:11	304:15 306:2,3	attempt 117:9
318:19	75:18 80:22 86:2,11	articles 172:1 191:22	attempting 251:15
announcement 106:12	131:10 171:9 190:3	203:9	attempts 251:14 272:22
128:18 171:19 192:17	194:4 236:15 244:1	artificially 16:12 192:6	attend 34:11 142:6
226:1 304:9	appreciates 89:1	ascension 41:4	attention 70:11 90:10
annual 7:15 116:7	223:22 228:18 283:22	Asia 117:8 118:15	151:18 209:7 273:10
155:9	approach 40:7 56:4	157:13 219:11	attitude 320:2
answer 18:9 30:2 58:4	243:8,11,20 244:9	Asian 117:17 157:13	attorney 293:2 315:14
70:12 131:11 146:1	246:2 250:7 258:10	188:3,4 232:16	attorneys 292:8
147:18 148:1 152:21	273:7 274:21 279:19	Aside 296:1	attractive 233:14
188:6 199:10 211:10	approached 170:19	asked 147:16 254:13	299:11
216:21 217:3 220:13	approaches 135:21	283:21	attributed 255:16
234:13 240:9 254:17	136:1,4 243:2	asking 69:21 100:13	Auburn 114:17 115:2
266:20,21 306:14	appropriate 202:10	103:6 311:6	116:19
309:7 310:22 313:2,5	266:17 291:6	ASME 203:2,12	audio 10:16
314:2	approval 57:13 289:10	aspects 86:10 250:1	August 6:12 43:17
answered 163:1	316:15	293:5	Augustyn 34:8 58:3
answering 90:11 104:9	approved 57:14 316:20	assemble 123:10	Australia 54:8 257:17
155:17	317:6	164:19 212:22	authorities 198:1,4
answers 315:19	approximately 7:16	assembled 34:19 98:21	authority 247:11 250:7
anti- 49:2 185:3 187:22	44:19 45:18 56:19	116:21 123:17 177:9	250:12
anti-dumping 49:18	57:6,18 67:5 69:3	221:17	authorized 287:7
68:14 74:5 225:15	80:2 104:19 109:10	assemblies 91:12 94:1	auto 2:20 4:17 115:21
anti-duty 225:14	140:12,17 143:8	95:2,3 114:22	126:10,14,16,17
anticipate 102:8 261:22	144:7 169:15 179:6,9	assembling 123:12,15	127:9 129:1 130:3
271:2 275:9	179:22 180:2 210:2	assembly 116:6 123:13	automobile 34:20 35:2
anticipated 208:16	214:2 218:15,18	155:6,14,19 184:1,13	37:7
anticipates 232:14	225:22 236:3 292:14	188:3 221:22 261:17	automotive 34:15,21
antimicrobial 197:13	292:15	293:21	57:21 58:5 114:16
Anvil 2:14 4:14 95:13	April 7:4,12,19 171:19	Asserting 22:9	115:1 126:19 128:3
95:21,21 96:7,9,18	299:9 308:9	assessed 290:9	130:11 230:16 263:17
97:9 98:5 100:3,7,16	arbitrary 284:7 292:20	assessment 289:22	automotive-related
103:22	293:10	asset 127:17	30:15
Anvil's 97:22	arcane 277:14	assist 29:20	availability 38:21 62:19
anymore 108:14 166:2	archery 174:7	assistant 11:18 12:12	122:12
appealing 208:21	area 114:7 167:6	65:16 101:21 167:17	available 35:12 36:9
appear 13:9 76:6 86:3	277:18 311:16 317:1	310:22	38:21 39:6 131:11
132:7 146:9 172:2	areas 38:10 88:1 236:5	Associate 302:6	142:20 155:3 212:17
194:15 298:13	250:2 273:5 arena 22:2	associated 151:1	212:18 216:14 217:1
appearing 9:7		195:10 238:20 263:16	244:22 261:21 305:10
appears 138:20 139:14	Argentina 233:13	association 2:6,12,16	307:14 313:11
288:22 304:6 316:18 appellate 250:10	arguing 186:6 argument 302:11	2:20 4:5,17 5:8,10 18:12,18 26:7 126:10	avenue 45:13 avenues 45:12
	312:12		
applaud 46:22 applauding 70:21	Arguments 22:5	126:15,16 127:9 186:5 223:16 240:13	average 122:5 186:17 186:18
applicability 39:5	Ari 1:21 154:11 168:3	240:16,17 252:13,15	avoid 50:21 75:15
application 38:22 42:18	213:2 223:3 283:5	282:6 285:13 297:10	86:20 89:21 172:10
60:9 122:14 184:19	Arkansas 76:17 169:13	assumes 186:10	190:11 201:1 226:21
185:22 231:8	169:22	assuming 157:22	227:13 234:10 264:16
applications 26:12	Armed 26:16 27:10	172:22 221:18	avoidance 192:4
112:12 138:3 200:6	arrangements 145:8	assumptions 186:9	avoiding 184:2
233:7	arranging 168:21	284:7	awarded 78:4 116:4
applied 92:4 231:14	art 116:13 143:4 197:12	Atlanta 169:11	aware 13:14 16:9 79:14
233:20 251:9 259:17	Arthur 1:11,14 167:17	attached 42:2 68:21	134:2 158:19 206:7
II			

237:12 239:12 277:2 280:21 281:9,19 318:18 В **B** 176:14 289:13 **Bacchus** 250:8,14 back 26:3 41:8 52:16 54:13 62:2 119:6 152:7,22 153:18 182:6 198:20 206:19 209:3 219:2,4 241:10 281:4 282:11 286:7 315:10 **back-up** 119:10 **backbone** 71:18 74:17 93:14 **backdrop** 198:13 **background** 31:3 81:12 174:5 179:5 backing 29:18 **backs** 118:10 backyard 78:1 85:11 bad 118:6 182:4 Baer 2:4 5:4 182:16,18 182:19 188:7 212:4,5 212:11 221:3,10 222:11 **baking** 286:18 **balance** 269:22 **Banker** 2:5,5 4:12,12 70:14,14,15,16,18,19 71:3,12 72:11 75:20 101:10,14 104:13,18 105:1,16 **Banker's** 71:9 bar 76:14 77:11,11 78:18 79:10 **Bargain** 248:5,6 barge 214:11,11 **barging** 204:17 barriers 130:18 242:12 243:15 275:14 base 19:22 51:22 52:9 53:8,12 144:15 145:1 baseball 71:19 based 7:3 14:21 17:10 25:3 39:21 91:2 118:18 138:22 170:17 191:16 199:21 203:20 204:9 205:1 213:17 232:18 249:14 289:20 294:19 295:4 308:5 314:16 315:1,2,15 **basic** 229:21 251:16 **basically** 98:13,20

233:16 289:6 291:9 **batteries** 32:1 285:16 battery 30:14 battery-powered 277:8 **BBC** 42:3 beams 71:14 **bear** 300:8 **bearing** 254:20 beat 210:19 **beating** 115:15 **Beckwith** 2:5 5:3 173:21 174:1,2 178:2 216:9,20 217:3 beer 210:5 began 43:16 81:15 143:16 247:22 beginning 261:12 262:10 286:19 begun 185:5,8 200:18 234:9 **behalf** 2:8 4:4,6,7 13:1 13:7 18:8 23:9,14,21 33:22 34:6 43:6 50:14 70:1 101:5 132:4 142:4 146:9 173:17 182:10.19 189:1 194:3,15 199:17 205:4 223:19 283:20 285:2 292:10 behavior 231:9 234:13 276:2 287:6 Beijing 244:4 251:1 Belgium 54:8 **belie** 251:19 **belief** 251:19 **believe** 24:7 46:18 73:18 102:13 113:10 113:19 120:6 125:21 139:1 147:18 148:1 149:7,15 150:8,13 160:8 175:1,3,16 213:16 224:7 236:17 247:2 251:17 272:15 272:19 274:21 278:16 293:3 312:8,16 believed 73:14 believes 94:12 100:7 226:16 belongs 54:14 beneficial 32:12 49:14 50:9 benefit 16:7 24:10 29:10 56:7,21 69:9 79:14 83:19 124:6 175:11,17 215:22 257:21 273:5 290:22

124:13 129:11 131:9 253:2 287:12 benefitted 44:22 83:22 192:3 225:3 **benefitting** 94:7 239:7 best 2:22 4:18 21:5 40:22 51:8 118:7 131:14,21 132:1,4,8 132:14 133:22 134:2 135:1,5 136:6,14 149:1,1 153:10 154:14,15 243:21 better 41:16 51:8 60:4 86:18 235:7 238:9 247:2 309:6 beyond 33:11 41:21 279:4 biased 289:21 **bid** 255:11,12,12 bids 77:22 **big** 62:14 193:9,12 219:19 268:14 **bigger** 242:3 biggest 33:2 56:17 bilateral 130:15 224:8 226:17 227:13 242:22 243:13 287:9 **Bill** 2:1,13 4:22 146:4,8 **billion** 7:16 41:10 44:11 44:13,16 45:1,18 50:17 94:8 125:1 126:17 225:1,18,22 226:2 229:6,7,10,11 235:18 253:16 259:5 260:17 284:3 285:8 290:7 292:15 296:10 296:11 297:1 304:3 318:20,21 **billions** 26:9 117:2 bin 255:8,10,11,16 256:4 **bind** 243:4 binding 243:19 248:22 bipartisan 252:20 Bishop 2:1 12:15,16 18:10 23:8 30:4 33:21 39:13 43:1 48:11,18 53:19 61:3 62:22 63:9 64:21 65:21 70:13 75:20 80:16 85:17 90:13,20 95:11 101:7 101:18 102:1 104:14 113:21 114:5 120:10 126:8 131:13 136:18 141:20 146:2 151:19 166:16,19 167:3 168:15,16 173:20 178:2 182:15 188:7

188:13,16 194:6 199:11 205:7 209:8 209:16 222:12 223:14 228:13 234:15 240:11 246:7 252:6 258:12 264:20 270:7,14 282:22 283:16 287:16 287:20 292:1 297:18 298:6 301:19 306:15 306:22 **bit** 48:19 52:6 102:10 148:6 166:8 281:15 blend 106:7 blind-sided 118:6 blocks 150:21 261:15 **blower** 278:11 blowers 240:6 blue 105:9 **Bo** 3:22 5:18 301:20 302:6 318:16 **board** 91:5 113:10 252:14 286:3 292:13 body 116:14 250:10 252:4 304:14,21 **boilers** 286:18 **bolt** 92:12 **Bonner** 1:15 216:8,9 217:2 218:10 **bonus** 111:10 **book** 81:17 111:13 **boom** 209:4 border 1:15 12:10 65:3 106:19 157:5,10 168:13 209:15,19 222:7 223:13 233:20 276:7 283:15 310:15 **born** 235:13 **bottom** 55:13 103:21 112:3 bought 219:7,9 **bound** 273:2 Bowen 2:6 5:8 223:15 223:17,18 228:13 275:2 276:4.17 **box** 193:9,12 208:12 **branch** 249:3 **brand** 121:4 125:15 132:3 155:16 161:13 branding 25:12 170:21 brands 159:22 160:1,4 171:6,7 Branson 2:7 5:2 168:17 168:19,20 169:2 173:20 215:6,13 **Brazil** 233:13 break 9:3,4,5 62:18,18 63:4 159:5 167:8 282:18

162:19 163:12 282:2

basis 155:9 197:6

305:12

benefits 17:19 36:18

breakdown 57:5 breaking 300:11 breakthroughs 88:1 bridge 77:5 106:3,14 **bridges** 72:20 74:18 91:4 92:14 93:16 brief 9:3 194:20 282:17 **briefed** 56:16 **briefly** 112:5 **Brightbill** 2:8 4:4 13:1,2 13:3,6 18:10 48:21 49:12 bring 54:13 56:20 57:17 153:17,18 163:13 164:15,17 166:13 177:1 182:6 249:20 250:4 263:22 302:14 302:20 304:6 bringing 177:8 218:4 220:7 249:7 250:3 274:15 brings 251:21 266:18 **broad** 76:21 152:10 250:5 260:4 273:8 296:15 broadcasts 121:11 broader 243:4 279:8 **broadly** 244:16 **broken** 163:14 **broker** 81:15 brought 192:9 252:1 273:11 287:11 296:16 brunt 254:20 **Bryan** 1:19 11:10,12 223:1 Brzytwa 2:9 5:9 228:14 228:16,17 234:15 270:12,22 Buchzeiger 2:9 4:16 114:12,13,14,15 120:10 156:3,6,10,19 157:1,6,11,15,20,22 158:5,8,18 159:3,8 **build** 39:20 40:8 52:15 118:17 124:7 147:7 148:12 150:14 151:7 154:7 155:4,7 160:9,9 164:20 **builder** 213:12 builders 100:11 102:11 103:5 building 19:3,14 72:2,4 73:20 77:5 100:15 147:12 150:21 161:11 161:11,16,17 166:12 203:8 237:18 238:20 261:14,18 buildings 72:20 74:18

77:8 92:14 93:16 **built** 72:8 137:7 143:4 162:15 165:1 255:10 **bulk** 157:16 **BURCH** 2:2 282:14 burden 6:22 18:4 50:21 255:1 300:8 303:22 burdened 293:17 Bureau 12:6 65:6 Burkville 263:6 280:12 **bushels** 257:13 **business** 1:15,19 11:13 14:14,18 30:12 31:13 36:10 37:6 50:22 66:5 66:13 69:1 77:2 78:9 78:17 81:13,18 85:3 86:1,11 96:7 103:22 104:2 113:12 115:4 115:14 116:7 117:15 117:20 118:12,18 119:3 120:1 130:22 140:12,16,19 141:13 143:2,5 144:2,9,14,17 145:2,8,15 148:7,16 162:7 166:3 178:14 179:15 189:20 190:7 190:8 191:17 193:8 205:15 206:14 213:12 213:12,19 216:10 223:2 227:11 259:15 259:22 263:4 264:6 265:9,10 266:9 268:15 284:19 287:14 293:5 299:2,3,6,18,20 **businesses** 24:17 71:3 94:4 120:4 126:19 127:5 134:22 135:9 135:19 141:10 182:1 190:5 216:17 232:5 235:1 239:21 252:22 268:14,16 283:20 284:13 298:2 **Busis** 1:11,13 6:3 12:11 12:11 13:4 23:19 48:14 51:1 53:16 54:15 57:19 58:13,19 59:4,7 61:2,5 62:17 63:3,14 65:12,12 101:10 105:13 112:4 146:6 153:7 156:3,7 156:16,21 157:2,7 159:3,11 163:5,8,19 164:3,8 166:16,21 276:12 281:8,16,19 **busted** 119:2 **butt** 119:2

buy 2:22 4:18 103:18

103:18,19 131:15,21

132:1,4,8,14 133:22 134:2 135:1,5 136:6 136:14 154:14,15 211:20 235:9 Buy- 106:4 Buy-America 106:15 buyers 113:15 buying 122:9 193:10,11 bypass 190:19 193:15

C

C 290:2 cable 142:17.20 **CAD** 35:14 **CAER** 24:1,7 28:20 29:19 calculated 44:14 calculating 290:7 calendar 97:5 California 169:13 256:13,15 **call** 143:11 162:13 called 60:1 115:16 235:10 265:22 316:5 calls 261:11 cameras 10:16 campaign 206:20 208:4 **Canada** 241:16 253:13 256:17 257:17 cancel 84:20 110:12 canceled 257:9 275:19 canceling 275:18 cancellations 275:22 cancelled 23:16 38:4 candor 54:5 canned 112:11,12 cans 112:14 capabilities 25:13 107:15 155:3 capability 165:22 204:1 **capable** 19:13 60:15 capacity 52:19 89:12 89:16,18 91:21 93:6,8 93:10 100:17 104:20 105:2,12,17 107:10 107:13 109:11,16 110:7 111:10 113:6,8 117:11 119:12 128:11 155:6,7,14 158:22 173:12,15 183:6 190:11 210:3 211:7 211:16,16 214:3,15 218:19 255:8 317:15 317:18 capital 37:18 38:3 41:22 85:7 100:19 105:2 110:18 139:20

163:10 173:10 255:6

295:5.18.18.20 carbide 2:4 4:11 63:12 65:22 66:4,11 carbon 204:10 care 2:20 4:17 126:10 126:15,16,17 127:9 carefully 8:3 130:14 cares 120:5 caring 126:3 **Carlisle** 2:10 4:8 Carlyle 39:14,15,17 43:1 54:17,21 55:14 58:20 59:2,5,10 Carolina 169:14 182:21 187:16 carrying 265:18 cars 36:8 242:2 296:6 Carter's 141:12 carve 300:15 case 31:18 46:11 51:18 264:6 267:14 274:15 319:13 cases 26:21 113:11 139:11 148:20 180:19 227:19 242:21 251:21 251:22 289:22 cast 114:21 casting 207:8 castings 34:17 Castle 3:11 5:5 199:13 catalogs 139:5 Catalogue 307:8 catalyst 233:16,16 categories 102:4 146:22 179:22 180:2 category 121:1 149:11 158:3 307:8 caught 278:5 causal 289:9 cause 92:2 100:9 102:15 125:2 128:15 135:18 149:16 173:8 175:15,22 177:17 231:15 236:18 246:22 254:15 300:15 313:13 caused 67:5,16 192:17 284:20 causing 67:13 122:11 124:17 313:18 **caution** 123:11 cautiously 45:7 **CCCME** 298:17 309:18 **CCOIC** 288:7 **CCP** 41:17 **CEA** 218:12 cease 128:17 **CEEM** 199:18 200:1

celebrated 30:11

celebrating 194:21 cells 13:12,16 16:1 17:3 17:12 18:6 48:22 49:4 49:8,13 Center 71:21 288:3 Central 72:5 centrifugal 206:1 218:14 cents 211:19 **century** 251:10 **CEO** 96:11 114:15 178:7 234:20 243:9 certain 79:6 86:12 88:15 89:3 128:2 133:8 150:5 158:4 170:12 215:7 221:7 234:22 246:20 289:3 300:16 303:19 307:19 307:22 308:6,16 309:3,4,11 315:7 certainly 52:18 96:18 119:21 125:13 170:5 215:13,21 221:10 244:6 251:16 certificate 140:8 cetera 181:14 214:14 **CGCC's** 284:2 Chad 3:8 5:5 194:7,13 **chain** 54:1 56:13 72:18 89:13 91:17 92:11 93:21 115:21 117:1 127:21 128:6 139:13 162:21 233:6 290:20 300:11.12 **chains** 20:19 25:7 127:7 128:10 131:8 139:18 166:1 253:3 269:11 **Chair** 1:13,14 4:2 6:3 10:11 12:11,13 48:14 51:1 53:16 54:15 57:19 58:13,19 59:4,7 61:2,5 62:17 63:3,14 65:12,13 101:10 105:13 112:4 153:7 156:3,7,16,21 157:2,7 159:3,11 163:5,8,19 164:3,8 166:16,21 167:14 168:14 209:11 212:3 220:14 221:1 222:18 270:10 276:12 278:13 281:8,16,19 283:2,8 306:18 309:1 309:9 310:12 314:12 315:21 318:13 320:9 chairing 167:1 Chairman 12:16 23:19 48:12 63:10 101:8

131:17 146:6 151:20 154:20 188:11,17 209:9 246:11 270:8 306:16 chairperson 302:5 Chairs 1:11 **challenge** 97:9 99:4 230:7 239:10 249:10 251:11 278:21 279:5 311:5,19 challenges 40:21 125:14 225:4 227:22 234:7 241:12 242:19 242:21 274:7 277:12 290:3 300:5 310:19 311:9,11,16 **challenging** 25:6 231:4 245:4 chamber 2:20 3:5,13,18 5:14,15,17 35:19 283:17,21 287:22 288:4 296:12 298:8 298:15 chambers 35:17 **change** 36:2 55:4,10 74:14 108:11.11 109:1 120:6 133:2 150:9,13 231:8 234:12 266:8 **changed** 73:3 104:4 121:10 260:11 **changes** 40:14 55:12 **changing** 96:19 150:6 154:10 251:10 **channel** 171:5 213:19 214:13 235:11 channels 142:12,15,19 144:17 251:15 **chapter** 176:14 281:6 charged 27:12 chargers 30:14 charging 32:1,1 **Charles** 81:14 chart 193:1 Chas 3:10 4:21 141:21 142:3 159:13 **cheaper** 207:17 208:8 **cheaply** 150:13 cheated 85:9 cheating 243:20 **chemical** 229:1,13 230:8 259:20 260:15 261:9,19 264:5,9 271:18

chemicals 229:4,20,22

262:19 296:6

230:1,3,6,12,14,19,21

231:19 260:11 262:17

Chemistry 2:9 5:9 228:15,18 260:16 262:16 **cherries** 256:11,13,18 256:20 cherry 256:14,15 chicken 267:6 chief 18:16 70:18 90:18 91:2 95:20 131:20 199:20 250:9 **children** 118:19 China's 6:8 15:13 17:21 18:2 20:3 21:13 25:16 41:4 42:14 46:2,8,9 47:4 52:19 73:17 76:7 80:8 81:3 83:15 87:13 88:19 95:8 127:10 128:17,19 129:2 133:9 134:5 182:4 193:14 203:2 224:1 229:1,3,19 230:7,9,11 231:9,13 232:8,20 233:3 234:7,12 239:5 239:7,9 241:21 249:21 250:11,22 251:6.18 254:5 257:11 259:14 262:14 262:16 264:12 278:17 279:7 281:10,21 306:5 307:7 319:3,20 319:22 Chinese-based 171:2 Chinese-origin 13:10 chip 25:13 **choice** 84:18 122:14 134:9 177:20 193:10 245:8 **choose** 118:4 142:11 142:14 271:8 chooses 16:5 **choosing** 134:19 **chosen** 299:2 circumstances 305:17 circumvent 93:22 circumventing 123:9 circumvention 86:20 89:21 94:3,22 185:4 188:1 221:5 circumventions 185:15 cities 294:11 citizens 41:15 42:11 138:7 city 25:19 71:13 72:6 78:14 claim 52:4 302:16 304:19 319:22 **claimed** 305:21 **claims** 187:8 305:4,19

clarify 61:10 311:2 Clark 2:10 5:11 246:8 246.12 class 35:20 116:11 138:19 242:4 **classic** 183:17 classified 72:13 81:9 132:9 185:19 277:13 clear 42:15 46:11 73:16 138:18 190:11,15 198:19 235:6 237:3 238:9 244:3 254:17 259:10 308:10 clearly 39:22 56:3 170:17 181:8 204:20 285:7 client 34:6 293:19 294:14 clients 292:11 293:3 314:3 climate 259:19 274:1 close 61:13 94:2,21 203:14,19 257:10 269:17 closed 145:9 closely 22:7 82:7 158:9 317:21 closer 48:19 53:20 61:4 64:21 90:20 104:15 125:18 126:1 157:8 209:17 307:1 closest 203:22 closing 42:14 230:13 **clutch** 38:15 Co- 1:11 co-marketed 144:3 **coal** 151:13 coalition 23:22 199:17 200:1 224:8 228:6 250:5 coast 71:6 260:22 coated 190:22 coating 76:19 code 30:18 33:18 61:12 145:10 158:12 175:3 176:3,9,17 177:5 189:6 195:13 206:2 214:21 261:12 262:11 293:21 **codes** 38:15 39:1,5 91:9,13,15 94:19 95:1 95:4 173:7 176:16 179:17 277:14 Cohen 2:11 5:10 234:16 234:18,19,20 240:11 276:22 277:7 cohesive 274:20

coils 84:16 163:12

Commerce-USA 2:20 193:18 70:15 78:6 81:12 complement 89:9 cold 110:17 5:15 283:18 106:21 115:2,19 complementary 74:2 collaborate 290:4 commercial 21:22 116:10 117:18 123:16 complete 62:11 160:11 164:16,20 177:9 **collar** 105:10 27:14 46:6 71:6 87:7 126:2 131:15 136:20 colleague 166:22 282:3 87:17 88:21 100:11 137:3,13,14,14,18 completed 57:12 177:3 colleagues 209:12 100:14 102:11 103:5 141:18 142:21 158:13 320:12 collect 45:12 134:1 169:8 188:21 168:18 169:5 171:3 completely 217:7 collected 7:4 189:16,22 226:14 174:10 178:4,8,9 293:10 collection 265:5 complex 74:21 123:18 253:12 194:2,21 198:8 204:5 collective 270:2 204:7 205:9,14 124:1 269:11 commercializing Columbia 24:5 78:1 137:11 206:21 207:21,22 complexities 238:19 132:6 commercially 15:8 209:5 232:6,9,14 complexity 20:20 combat 17:21 202:1 238:4 235:8,12,15 236:11 complicate 89:16 combined 23:2 122:15 **Commission** 1:10 2:1,2 236:19 237:8 238:3 comply 299:19 273:20 192:10,11 248:4 255:16 256:3,4,5 complying 252:3 Commissioners 224:13 **combines** 116:11 259:9 274:15 294:2,9 component 25:21 come 52:16 63:2,9 68:4 commitment 45:22 company's 44:8 127:16 28:15 29:2 87:13 70:8 85:1 113:12 46:3 241:3 248:11 compared 83:10 181:18 148:15 152:11 183:16 114:1,7,9 154:21 commitments 40:11,13 compensated 45:2 184:16 212:16,18 130:16 156:1 159:20 161:7 compete 41:2 52:17 217:15 167:4,5,14 212:19,21 committed 303:16 62:2 80:11,11 98:4 components 20:7,13 218:17 220:16,22 committee 1:3,9 4:2 6:6 99:2 108:13 172:13 21:11 22:17,20 24:22 222:14 272:20,21 6:18 8:2,5,8 9:17,20 181:12 190:5 193:8 25:6 26:17 30:20 277:13 278:6,8 281:4 10:3 12:14 23:20 201:4 217:11 34:19 35:3 37:1 62:7 26:17 28:20 29:21 73:21 114:22 128:3 282:22 **competes** 159:18 comes 11:6 105:2 34:4 64:9.16 65:14 competing 165:21 130:4 148:19 150:7 106:8 160:22 195:3 70:17 75:17 95:17 213:18,19 232:19 152:17 154:2 164:18 254:18 266:18 112:6 125:18 131:18 competition 68:11 165:4,15 166:13 coming 21:21 26:3 55:2 146:6,8 154:20 101:2 110:19 111:15 185:8 200:3,9,14 62:2 101:16 113:18 167:21 168:21 175:2 141:1,3 172:12 201:19 202:7,11,19 189:22 200:15 243:18 115:11 124:11 181:3 188:19 190:4 199:15 202:21 203:7 204:22 181:7 214:20 220:19 205:12 216:18 222:20 competitive 67:10 205:5,22 214:5 269:17 298:22 246:12 283:3 284:1 101:1 113:3 127:17 221:14 286:11 300:13 commend 266:11 292:6,12,19 297:22 128:15 131:8 139:1 compound 69:11 comment 51:22 58:21 302:5 311:15 140:4 177:8 182:8 compounded 192:16 60:5 114:20 258:16 Committee's 98:5 187:12 193:4 204:6 292:17 270:19 commodities 253:8 219:5 245:5,11 246:4 comprehend 208:2 260:7,13 266:6 300:6 comments 8:6,8 10:1 commodity 139:10 comprehensive 14:6 34:6 41:12 48:10 257:8 317:20 318:6 23:3 35:8 86:4 112:19 51:12 56:16 57:4 common 290:2 291:8 competitiveness 127:7 243:11 274:20 58:14 64:14 87:2 307:21 310:18 311:9 131:4 164:22 201:17 compressor 35:1 38:17 230:6 232:21 234:3 101:11,11 107:17 311:15 compressors 34:16,20 135:1 136:5 147:4 Commonwealth 44:4 259:17 262:19 268:9 36:6 38:16 57:21 153:3 159:4 189:4 communications 286:13 compromise 75:3 228:22 260:1 276:5 268:20 competitor 14:13 compulsory 133:16 284:1 296:13 298:20 Communist 41:17 competitors 52:16 computer 87:6 315:6 316:2,3,3,4,6,8 communities 72:21 57:20,22 69:16,22 computer-aided 35:7 126:5 253:20 264:8 113:14 162:16 171:4 computers 24:15 25:4 318:12 **commerce** 1:19,20 3:6 **community** 118:5 256:2 172:18 174:22 177:3 concentrated 165:19 257:6 268:19 287:15 177:22 189:19 190:12 3:14,18 5:16,17 7:1 concern 36:1 55:1 12:1 18:4 29:1,7 291:13 294:6 190:18 191:1,18,21 61:20,21 128:19 51:16 65:11 90:7 companies' 87:5 197:1,10 202:3 172:5 229:17 246:22 company 2:5,11,19 3:7 104:12,17 127:12 203:16 233:22 245:10 254:1,10 261:2 4:12,20 5:3,6 21:1 168:9 210:21 223:7 257:18,21 concerned 58:5 127:21 competitors' 192:20 283:10,21 287:22 25:8 31:11,16 32:4 196:16,20 224:3 288:4 296:12 298:8 34:13,15 38:8 43:10 complainants 306:11 229:15 244:17 254:7 298:15 304:1 306:19 48:4 56:4 58:9 59:1,9 complaint 250:2,13 259:12 275:12 276:1 63:12 66:1,4,6,21 307:3 317:4 complaints 250:3 308:18

concerning 21:3 concerns 59:13 123:22 127:16 138:10 216:17 221:4 226:14 236:20 247:6 274:12 291:3 298:4 301:12 308:6 Concessions 288:17 **concise** 10:8 64:11 conclude 10:12 232:2 269:18 concluded 303:18 concludes 48:12 101:8 151:20 186:16 209:9 270:8 306:16 concluding 39:3 conclusion 10:20 47:17 125:3 131:2 136:6 177:15 182:10 208:15 228:3 284:8 291:14 294:18 297:21 306:3 314:15 315:17 conclusions 285:3 314:22 concrete 316:8 Condition 168:18 conditioner 172:9 conditioners 171:22 172:1,10,17,18 173:1 173:2,14 215:8 conditioning 2:7 5:2 34:15,20 35:1 57:21 129:21 152:14 153:9 169:4,20 170:8 171:14 251:1 **conditions** 35:17 54:22 242:13 conduct 303:5 conducting 47:19 95:17 299:19 304:11 conducts 87:4 confidential 135:2 136:5 163:20 164:12 164:13 178:14 193:1 260:1 263:4 311:20 confirmed 204:18 conflicted 306:8 confrontation 226:22 291:4 conglomerates 219:8 **Congress** 47:7,16 48:7 248:17,20 Congressman 250:8 conjunction 6:5 connect 95:22 Connecticut 169:14 connecting 96:8 **connection** 6:7 21:12 316:14,15

consequence 122:11 278:8 consequences 115:17 124:16 125:20 130:10 136:14 254:7 260:6 consequently 219:10 conservative 24:12 94:13 consider 8:3 16:5 17:5 50:7 99:16 130:8 171:3 241:14 293:10 297:22 316:18 consideration 30:2 136:16 194:4 202:14 considerations 206:20 considering 156:4 205:12 216:19 considers 304:10 consistent 174:21 177:21 247:4 269:22 289:18 319:3 consolidated 96:19 construct 264:5 constructed 130:14 262:7 306:7 construction 35:15 71:7 75:5 77:4,5 81:21 91:7 92:19 93:4 93:13 94:4,20 108:9 147:12 256:3 261:6 261:15,18,22 318:3 constructive 234:5 291:11 consultant 204:16 consultations 301:16 304:9 **consume** 55:14 **consumer** 27:21 41:19 92:2 103:17 104:3 121:19 122:17,18 128:13 131:22 152:18 152:20 153:22 174:7 174:7,8 175:16,20 176:3,6,10,11 177:18 186:5 190:7 211:18 212:10,12 216:12 227:11 239:9 242:1 267:15 277:17 280:20 282:5 285:13 297:10 consumer-oriented 92:8 consumers 29:16 92:7 100:10 102:10 103:5

103:6,9,11 112:19

121:9 122:3,7,9 134:9

134:22 135:3,9,12,19

136:15 152:4 161:3

181:22 187:8 193:5

213:5 215:10 231:16 235:1 239:19 267:15 268:6,9 284:13,21 285:9,11,12 286:5 297:7,15 300:7,20 301:10 312:22 consumers' 235:20 consuming 55:15 consumption 268:4 contain 24:16 contained 250:14 containing 44:2 **contains** 286:16 contamination 78:11 108:21 contemplate 37:13 content 53:3 142:11 144:20 164:3,4,10 191:12 197:21 contention 248:3 **CONTENTS** 4:1 context 55:20 74:16 155:1 191:14 273:17 279:12 continually 36:2 111:1 continue 40:12 41:3 44:20 52:1 66:21 70:6 71:3 75:13 80:7 85:9 127:14 131:5 141:2 169:18 190:14 201:11 206:9 211:12 217:11 228:8 287:9 299:7 308:10 continued 70:22 73:1 78:17,20 101:5 173:17 235:18 continues 41:4 continuing 41:13 134:10 181:5 contract 57:15 116:4,9 119:7 contracted 44:12 contracting 78:13 contraction 150:3 contractors 108:6 contracts 37:7 58:8 115:7 269:14 contrary 291:19 contrast 26:12 40:4 contributing 233:21 contribution 290:1 contributors 138:8 control 27:1 29:9 60:19 133:21 146:16 295:11 controlled 21:3 35:2,16 controls 294:21 Convention 71:21 convert 67:22

convictions 46:10 48:1 **cooling** 169:7 cooperate 311:4 cooperation 291:6 317:15,19 318:1 coordination 269:20 copied 197:20 **copy** 42:3 207:9,15 235:22 **copying** 31:7 207:8 copyrights 197:20 **corded** 277:8 cordless 240:6 core 243:12 corn 253:8 cornerstone 121:13 248:13 **Corp** 50:14 **Corporation** 2:5,15,16 2:19,21 4:6,9,13 5:3 23:10,15 25:8 43:3,7 76:4 85:19 86:2 120:18 137:6 173:22 174:6 corporations 200:18 correct 32:6 157:1 163:6 316:11.21 correlation 289:13 293:6 corresponding 301:3 Cory 3:21 4:7 30:5,10 cost 19:20 20:8,15 22:7 32:3 36:19 37:9 60:4 62:9 68:7 78:15 84:15 97:11,16,18 98:1,3 99:10 100:12 104:3 109:18 121:20 122:13 125:10 129:19 135:11 139:11 141:3 150:14 151:13 154:6 166:8 170:22 172:19 174:20 177:21 180:9,10 181:9 186:17,18,21 187:1,5 191:4,22 200:19 201:18 204:5 204:14,18 205:1 210:17 211:19 212:17 215:16 233:22 255:15 255:17,21 260:13 263:16 268:15 280:22 281:21 290:16 294:12 300:9,14,19 312:17 312:18 314:5,6,8 cost-effective 130:6 costs 32:5 37:10 67:9 97:15 99:7 102:16 117:8,9,13 128:12 149:14,20 150:2,17

			323
	I	1	1
151:1 153:21 172:15	course 30:12 31:16	curb 95:8 247:16	D 290:5
181:11 191:21 192:20	49:20 50:6 98:19	curious 309:12	D.C 1:10 3:15 246:14
192:21 207:19 227:11	247:2 253:14	current 37:4,14 38:6	292:3
238:20 245:2 255:5	court 45:3,7 64:17	67:11 90:1 93:8 94:6	daily 107:16
259:20 261:9,18	101:19 207:12 274:14	100:4 115:7 123:9	damage 171:13 254:10
271:6 280:19 286:4	courts 45:17 46:2	138:22 183:9,11	259:18
312:14		190:17 202:4 225:8	damages 14:19 44:14
III	cover 9:4 68:6,9 69:5		45:18
cottage 214:22	81:7 86:22 90:3	254:1 262:5 264:17	
Council 1:17 2:9,18 5:9	143:12 240:5 303:13	278:18 319:20	damaging 232:4 296:18
5:12 198:18 228:15	308:6	currently 30:19 31:22	damn 116:15
228:18 260:16 262:16	coverage 67:1 171:17	32:15,19 33:9,11 37:1	danger 117:3
264:22	300:7	49:2 54:6 59:10,15,16	Daniel 2:21 4:9 43:2
Counsel 65:13 167:18	covered 6:21 22:3 61:9	59:17 91:17 95:1 96:5	data 17:10 73:16
167:18 168:2 246:13	67:20 70:9 75:12	123:7 129:4 137:15	127:13 134:18 135:2
counter 134:18	112:7 158:1 200:11	152:6 155:5 160:1	186:12
counteraction 296:17	244:22 247:13 304:2	164:11 169:15 178:21	databases 143:4
counterfeit 24:22 25:9	309:16	187:12 197:5 202:14	date 39:9 45:18
26:4,17,22 27:5,13	covering 130:1 197:12	206:15 211:4 254:19	David 2:4,14 5:4,4
28:1,3 32:7	covers 189:7 307:19	258:4,19 263:18	182:16 188:8,19
counterfeiters 25:3	308:16	280:13 286:14	
			day 69:7 85:10 109:15
26:12 27:17 28:19	cracker 259:8	custom 147:6 151:7	137:11
29:11	crackers 214:14	159:7 162:8	days 8:18 109:16,17
counterfeiters' 25:10	create 25:5 28:13 55:4	customer 26:11 31:13	124:11 225:10
counterfeiting 25:17	56:1 67:3 92:13	31:18 36:2 57:12	DC 5:16
counterparts 40:17	130:21 131:8 144:13	111:18 117:10,10	de 2:12 4:12 75:21,22
41:20 295:3	172:11 242:7 243:3	141:1 165:1 203:20	76:1,2 80:16 107:22
counterproductive	243:16,18 267:2,2,3	294:12	108:4 289:7,7
291:2,18 295:16	274:17 284:18	customers 31:8 33:2	deal 69:15 251:18 272:1
countervailing 49:3,18	created 193:16	66:13,20 67:9,12	279:8 290:4
68:15 74:6 180:7	creates 74:11 115:22	69:10 70:1 77:1 107:2	dealing 268:14 273:15
countries 19:10,13 50:1	121:5 172:7 235:16	109:22 113:14 127:8	decade 128:22 196:11
53:7 73:20 74:10	creating 41:14,18 148:8	140:20 142:9 144:13	235:5
94:16 129:14 139:17	creation 193:13 264:8	149:2,10 150:18	decades 83:21 100:6
141:3 148:16,20	287:14	165:1 181:6 191:16	170:3 203:11 284:11
154:15 157:13 160:10	credentials 203:13	207:12,13 234:1	decided 270:4
162:18 166:5 186:2	criminal 44:6 46:10	236:19 238:10,14	deciding 147:13
188:4 201:1 218:22	48:1	245:3 253:5 259:21	decimated 203:2
220:16 221:15,16	cripple 115:14 244:21	293:16	decision 45:20 73:5
224:9 228:7 242:14	crippled 242:16	customs 1:15 12:10	89:2 206:17 249:20
250:5 290:3 291:5	criteria 16:5 79:12	65:3 94:11 106:19	256:1
301:10 307:21 318:9	critical 18:2 25:1 27:18	157:4,10 168:12	decisions 209:2 299:5
319:11 320:5	75:4 81:3 108:17,17	196:20 209:15,19	decline 19:21 51:21
country 17:17 23:5 26:1	108:20 127:20 147:7	223:13 283:14 310:15	291:21
40:2 41:16 42:1 52:11	149:13 183:16 184:15	cut 84:18 92:11 286:7	declined 171:9
60:6,10,11 113:8	200:6,13 201:19	cyber 80:9 86:6 87:8,13	decorative 112:13
115:16 118:5 123:5	202:11,21 203:7	87:20 88:20	decrease 67:13
152:8,21 161:7	205:5 233:7 244:13	cyber-hacking 17:21	decreased 96:13
210:15 222:1 226:12	critically 91:15 253:19	cyber-terrorists 28:2	decreases 53:8,9,10,14
229:5 238:19 239:16	crop 224:4 226:5	cyber-terrorists 26.2	decreasing 122:13
241:4,15 244:17	233:10,14 258:6	17:1 46:5	dedicate 126:3
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
245:1 262:13 309:19	Crosman 173:21 174:5	cybersecurity 290:3	deemed 139:10
309:21,22 310:8	Crosman's 174:13	310:19 311:9,19	deep 270:2
country's 23:5	cross-border 253:3	cycle 26:2	deeper 243:4
couple 113:7 156:11	crosshairs 68:11	Czachor 2:11 5:3 178:3	deeply 190:3 194:3
157:5,10 203:11	crossroads 85:2	178:5,6,7 182:15	196:16 197:9 229:15
couplings 96:2 97:12	crucial 246:18	209:20 210:6	244:17
97:21 98:18 99:3,13	cry 55:10		defend 32:6 73:9
99:17 100:21	cultivator 277:16	D	defender 249:13

defense 19:2 24:18 **Depot** 103:12,15 104:1 233:15 88:21 122:7,10 133:2 25:15 26:22 27:16 104:7 277:10 **developed** 31:21 74:22 134:15 141:16 154:21 122:1 237:1 156:2 184:22 187:3 189:13 203:8 depressed 257:7 deficit 41:10 118:9 developing 26:9,13 261:8 270:15 284:4 **Deputy** 12:12 288:3 301:8 **derive** 47:12 134:11 147:10 215:1 302:2 305:6 308:19 describe 49:7 112:5 **define** 222:4 development 16:11 **Director** 11:15,21 18:17 **definitely** 215:15 216:6 221:8 228:22 33:14 36:6 41:22 42:6 65:19 146:15 288:3 315:5 described 108:18 87:18 123:21 133:14 **Directors** 91:6 224:14 definition 138:20 139:3 143:3 151:15 176:13 252:14 definitively 279:16 description 266:3 166:10 192:9 235:19 disadvantaged 233:4 Delaware 237:5 deserve 70:3 89:6 286:9 287:2,13 disagreements 287:10 delaying 226:11 305:12 design 35:7,13,22 develops 62:1 disappears 271:10 discipline 273:19,19 **delays** 40:12 36:11 57:11 94:4 device 28:4 deliver 108:6 124:8 148:12 150:14 **devices** 263:18 disciplined 274:8 **DHH** 3:15 5:16 292:2,7 **delivery** 76:20 191:15 151:7 202:20 discriminate 127:11 **Delta** 118:22 designated 198:17 dialog 287:10 discriminatory 6:22 demand 20:3 88:3 designed 28:5 117:5 dialogue 56:1 131:6 147:21 202:2 303:22 discuss 47:14 148:3 91:21 93:9,11 97:3 133:7 139:7 161:2 **dialysis** 268:20 104:20 109:11 122:19 234:12 308:8 175:4 196:18 198:14 diameter 76:9 77:12 discussed 161:22 142:12 155:8 173:13 208:12 237:1 79:9 81:8 108:3 173:15 196:2,3 210:4 designers 214:9 109:13 162:8 175:18 281:12 **Die** 2:4 4:11 63:12 282:1 211:8 214:4 218:20 designing 161:4 230:18,19 263:9 designs 74:20 121:2 65:22 66:4 discussing 110:5 demanding 35:4 160:17 dies 66:9 70:6 141:11 demands 21:13 107:11 desirable 148:8 difference 101:2 210:16 discussion 265:4 269:4 demonstrate 311:17 desired 136:12 268:16 discussions 244:4 demonstrated 39:22 desk 11:1 differences 40:20 disease 243:21 45:21 260:20 290:13 despite 40:10 78:3 97:3 186:21 291:7,11,19 dishwashers 267:20 demonstrates 203:15 183:1 191:11,17 301:17 dismiss 62:22 demonstrating 135:2 destinations 214:13 different 11:5 20:1 dismissed 282:16 **Dempsey** 2:12 5:10 destiny 60:20 31:22 42:16 56:5 61:1 **displace** 170:17 171:6 240:12,14,15 246:7 destroyed 44:8 98:19 103:19 152:11 disposable 135:15 detail 64:12 271:22,22 272:9 152:12 154:2,2 disposals 213:5 155:20 156:12 206:3 department 1:14,16,16 detailed 7:9 14:5 20:17 disposer 195:3 196:9 1:18,19,20,20,21 21:2 29:17 82:14 222:1 196:13 11:16 12:1,4,7 44:13 312:2 314:19 differential 270:20 disposers 194:19 195:1 45:9 50:13 51:16 65:7 details 7:17 21:6 difficult 20:16 21:15 195:5,12 196:1,21 65:11,20 87:10 160:11,18 281:20 31:10 37:12 68:5 197:22 198:15 199:2 104:12,17 105:20 310:20 311:10 104:9 130:5 192:15 199:2 109:8 159:14 168:3.8 detect 25:6 207:11 271:10 disproportionate 50:21 168:11 189:13 210:21 detection 25:9 difficulties 56:12 58:2 100:9 124:17 147:17 213:2,22 223:3,7,9,11 deter 148:4 284:14 difficulty 58:17 60:15 148:5 149:16 173:8 279:22 283:5,10,13 **determent** 52:9,21 digging 281:5 231:15 254:15 260:6 306:18 307:3 308:18 determination 7:6.18 Digital 27:22 270:20 Department's 154:12 22:15 47:1 215:12 digits 129:5 disproportionately 288:10 289:5 diligently 125:15 239:20 264:13 271:4 Departments 2:6 5:9 determinations 128:7 dilute 92:22 105:8 223:16 224:15 dispute 60:3 225:9 224:15 288:20 diminished 140:18 248:10,12,21 249:8 determine 61:14 depend 127:6 229:14 diminishes 238:2 249:18,20 250:18 244:21 254:3,11 determined 87:3 direct 9:21 15:17 22:3 252:4 254:20 258:11 dependable 40:7 determines 303:4 46:18 48:12 50:9 86:5 274:13 288:18,21 dependent 195:20 detrimental 143:13 101:8 117:19 151:20 302:14,19,21 303:4 292:16 296:1,4 167:8 191:10 209:9 303:16 304:7,14,16 256:22 depending 62:19 **Detroit** 78:11 108:19 232:8 245:2 270:8 304:21 305:14 306:8 103:15 164:21 217:22 294:3 284:14 306:16 319:2,8,9,13,15,16 directed 64:10 87:14 220:18 devastated 14:1 109:17 320:3,6,7 depends 19:5 164:14 develop 57:8 89:17 direction 139:15 disputes 59:18 225:7 deployed 228:2 133:19 134:13 154:16 directly 67:9 83:15 disregard 287:4 289:22

DSB 278:22 disregards 284:20 56:19 67:6 71:8 73:9 28:8,17 87:14 124:17 **disrupt** 16:15 79:19 89:11,17 91:20 93:8 **ducted** 170:8 127:18 150:16 151:11 84:7 290:19 310:2 95:9 96:21 104:8,20 **due** 8:8 10:3 23:16 168:2 173:8 182:5 106:8 107:10,10 disrupting 124:19 38:20 64:14 67:4 68:3 224:2 227:15 231:15 disruption 92:3 134:17 109:11 171:14 173:12 89:9 130:1 138:17 241:22 243:14 245:9 253:22 254:15 262:12 172:20 175:15,22 173:13 178:10,20 142:16 191:20 263:9 263:9 179:11,12 180:5,11 294:8 264:7 268:11 280:19 disruptions 128:14 180:22 181:12 196:3 dumped 15:3 203:3 280:22 281:10,20,20 135:18 205:19 209:22 210:1 210:16 282:7 210:4 211:2,7,8,15 dumping 49:3,21 180:7 economical 287:12 distinctiveness 207:6 distinguished 146:7 212:14 214:3,4 200:18 204:21 economically 47:9 188:12,18 302:4 218:19,20 219:15 duplicate 165:21 261:19 distort 242:13 227:18 245:18 247:4 duties 13:10 16:3,6 economics 260:11 distorting 243:17 247:14 249:9 256:5 17:3 36:13 39:18 49:3 Economist 65:5 259:19 260:15 278:1 49:3,6,17,19,19 58:9 distortion 186:20 economy 16:15 24:10 distortions 241:9 272:7 286:21 288:12 291:16 26:5 47:3 55:15 72:22 58:10 68:2 69:6,10 distortive 79:15 242:10 302:17 319:9,11 74:2,6,6,7 81:5 83:18 79:19 83:17 84:8 92:3 272:2 domestically 38:19 103:3 122:16 141:16 125:6 127:3 128:20 distracted 281:15 97:1 109:4 152:6 147:1 149:19,21 129:12 130:12 134:17 distribute 126:20 165:4 166:2 172:15 151:1,9 184:2,4 135:19 138:8 147:18 139:16 162:20 178:19 180:13 181:2 185:10 186:3 187:20 148:5 149:14,17 distribution 138:1 181:17 202:18 216:2 188:2 192:14 196:21 150:18,21 175:15,22 144:21 236:6 219:5 238:18 199:3 201:2 204:10 177:18 186:7 200:7 **distributor** 25:14 27:12 domestically-sourced 221:18 226:19 227:3 203:7 216:1 242:3 distributors 141:7 227:4,4 231:10,14 252:20 253:19 292:16 255:18 162:21 300:4 dominant 207:4 233:22 254:14 296:1.5 **District** 24:5 132:6 dominate 88:4 **duty** 7:14 18:7 36:16,22 **Ed** 2:9 5:9 158:14 228:14 diverse 38:10 289:18 Don 4:12 70:14 38:13 68:15 72:16 diversifying 148:22 **Donald** 2:5 70:17 74:9 79:5,11 81:11 edge 127:17 **Division** 2:7 5:2 168:18 door 78:3 116:3 120:1 82:21 88:14 117:7,16 editorial 41:8 169:4 158:20 299:8 308:11 128:1 177:11 183:13 education 142:19 divisions 206:12 doors 212:1 183:15,20 184:19 effect 32:13 49:15,18 do-it-yourself 103:13 double 105:17 129:5 185:18 187:1,3,6,7,18 50:10 92:22 110:2 docket 10:19 30:19,21 doubled 161:13 196:10 199:5 212:20 217:13 117:19 134:15 151:16 33:17 163:14 256:14 217:16 222:5 225:15 201:17 212:10.11 doctrine 306:1 doubt 257:18 288:13 304:2 220:1 222:9 257:5 **document** 314:18 **doubtful** 179:14 duty-free 197:2 **effective** 17:6 23:2 36:3 **dynamic** 192:16 317:21 downstream 49:16 74:3 75:15 98:3 132:21 documented 180:18 99:12 105:22 107:22 135:21 147:20 182:3 Ε 242:11 274:3 128:5,12 172:9 185:17 193:20 224:9 doing 31:4 33:13 230:17,21 232:12 **E** 1:10 231:12 243:10 251:18 263:16 264:14 290:15 130:22 164:11 174:12 e-25:21,22 28:9 effectively 117:17 190:4 222:8 268:15 293:16 e-recycling 29:12 122:16 135:8 177:12 dozen 68:19 182:6 286:21 269:18.21 273:3 **e-waste** 24:13,20 26:2 293:5 299:18 drag 276:3 effects 77:16 91:17 27:6 28:13,15 29:8 **DOJ** 14:12 dramatic 37:10 255:20 254:18 257:6 263:9 50:15,20 297:22 dollar 22:13 117:18 dramatically 260:10 earlier 14:21 16:20 49:5 123:19 229:6 261:19 drawn 125:3 179:10 181:15 217:14 efficient 98:3 297:14 dreamed 198:4 217:19 255:7 effluent 206:5 effort 95:8 197:21 dollars 26:9 32:5,8 dredging 84:13 earn 40:16 125:15 117:2 125:1 140:11 drill 92:11 200:22 **earned** 121:7 169:21 179:10 180:1 drinking 206:4 **earnings** 233:12 efforts 15:1 17:21 20:3 drive 55:15 72:21 23:4 55:20 89:17 180:10 181:10 195:8 easier 150:8 235:21 101:5 127:10 131:3 204:8,13,19 205:1,18 driven 196:17 296:15 easily 100:18 185:12 173:17 198:7 239:10 225:1 229:7,10,12 299:6 **east** 71:6 232:10 233:21 290:7 drives 138:2 easy 267:14 269:9 244:2 254:5 domestic 13:22 16:12 driving 127:18 149:14 egregious 197:18 eat 58:10 28:13 29:12 34:18 151:12 180:21 203:16 **economic** 1:17 11:3

	i	i	i
eight 56:2 68:14 96:3	140:11,15,18 142:5	enjoyed 203:19	essential 121:5
189:9 255:13	142:21 143:1,7 149:9	enormous 242:7	essentially 23:18
eight-digit 88:15	160:20 189:1 194:17	ensure 15:20 48:7	117:15 239:18
either 49:21 62:18	195:17,20 198:10	185:16 190:5 228:7	establish 47:8
96:15 103:12 123:10	205:17 259:1 280:14	311:18 314:6	established 46:1
153:20 191:8 262:6	employing 121:22	ensures 183:8	establishment 174:19
268:3 271:5 294:9	125:9 127:3 161:19	ensuring 17:18 29:13	316:19 317:5
301:8 315:12	174:14	269:1	estimate 36:21 44:21
elaborate 50:15 56:11	employment 37:5 53:13	entail 134:12	105:14 152:3 163:20
102:10	77:17	enter 25:7 74:8 199:5	
			estimated 112:18
electric 3:21 4:7 30:6	employs 137:15 169:15	entered 14:20	260:16 280:22
30:10 36:7,8 137:6,13	240:21 294:2	entering 195:12 226:11	estimates 24:12 230:20
137:22 138:5,11	Empower 208:4	276:11	estimation 140:17
139:21 140:14 141:6	empty 214:11	enterprise 43:19	et 181:13 214:14
162:7 163:13 219:8	enable 121:18 122:22	204:22 229:6 289:14	ethical 123:20
235:9 240:6 278:11	enabled 14:13 174:20	289:16	ethylene 214:14 259:7
electrical 139:22	Enabling 230:8	enterprises 88:10	EU 250:4
electricity 318:4	enacted 36:14	270:17 285:2 288:5	Europe 48:1
electrohydraulic	enacts 266:5	289:7 316:20 317:2	European 210:14
293:20	encompassing 163:16	entertainment 121:19	232:16 248:4 253:14
electromagnetic 38:15	encourage 40:6 41:11	entire 180:1 197:20	evade 75:14 92:22
electronic 3:20 5:18	41:20 156:9 198:14	252:19 265:7 307:8	evaded 74:2
24:13,22 25:20 26:17	227:20 308:12 317:22	entirely 134:1 196:5	evading 185:10 186:3
26:22 27:5,6 298:9,16	318:7	entrance 308:12	188:2
electronics 2:4 5:4 19:2	encouraged 42:7 82:15	entrants 242:5	evaluate 35:13
23:22 24:7,15 25:14	317:12	environment 96:19	evasion 185:4
25:16 27:12,13 28:1	encourages 88:18	130:22 299:11 308:14	eventually 53:14 219:7
29:13 131:22 182:17	317:18	environmental 36:1	300:19 304:22
182:20 183:2,7	encouraging 29:12	77:6 121:7 123:22	everybody 12:19
263:18	encroaching 303:5	192:5 198:15,16	111:16
Element 2:4 5:4 182:16	ends 99:5	environmentally 35:16	evidence 7:3 15:17
182:20 183:2,7 184:3	energized 241:2	equal 187:2	29:18 285:7 289:6
184:10 185:5 212:20	energy 16:11 17:22	equally 296:16	291:17 315:13,15,16
Element's 184:9 187:11	18:1 27:20 150:19	equates 179:9	evidentiary 284:9
187:15	199:18 200:9,18	equipment 26:19 35:21	evolved 170:5
elephant 118:12	201:20,22 202:12,22	61:16 62:7 126:21	exact 165:7
elevators 286:18	205:6	139:21 148:11 151:4	exactly 199:6 312:15
eliminate 226:22 228:1	enforceable 130:19	163:11 164:7 166:11	examination 314:19
243:15	259:10	166:13 170:8 199:18	example 15:7 17:8
eliminated 212:13	enforced 32:21 231:3	200:19,20 201:9,22	20:21 36:5 46:1 60:5
eliminating 182:4	enforcement 12:13	202:17 204:3 214:12	73:18 77:19 84:12
202:17	59:19 127:14 227:17	220:11 245:18 261:8	108:18 142:18 166:1
elimination 36:17	243:19 248:2,7 275:7	268:19 269:15 277:22	195:7 203:15 204:20
231:13	engage 61:22	278:2 286:17 318:4	217:19,20 225:10
else's 155:16	engaged 160:21 269:9	equity 307:14	230:15 236:1 237:4
embarked 208:3	engagement 227:15,20	era 267:5	239:4 255:4 266:2
emerge 123:5	engaging 131:6 224:8	Erickson 2:17 252:7,11	285:12 286:5 293:19
emerging 36:12 121:22	engineer 148:10 202:20	275:2	294:14 296:20 297:9
198:17	engineered 69:20 77:3	escalate 245:20 276:2	309:8,14,15 316:14
emphasize 132:13	146:15 151:8 208:12	escalates 276:3	317:7,8,10 318:2
employ 96:5 212:22	214:17	especially 19:7,11	examples 21:20 37:20
employed 134:18 284:4	engineering 76:22	129:20 149:12 161:7	198:5 256:8 309:10
employee 37:16 81:20	143:2 146:20 148:8	200:14 201:9 224:4	310:9,20 311:17
employees 34:13 38:6	148:17 187:1	247:17 266:17 286:15	314:21 315:5 316:9
44:9 67:14 82:8 84:22	engineers 151:6 214:9	295:19	316:13 318:11,11
105:18 111:12 115:20	English 221:8	espionage 87:14	excavation 77:6
118:2,11 132:5	enjoy 121:19 197:2	ESPN 142:14	exceeding 93:3
137:15,17 138:7	317:20 318:6	essence 140:14 161:19	exception 165:13 225:9
	I	I	I

excess 93:8 155:9 excessive 241:5 **exchange** 220:18,21 248:8 excited 156:14 exclude 240:3 excluded 39:9 120:20 145:20 excluding 93:18 99:8 exclusion 120:7 132:18 184:13 187:20 261:12 exclusively 170:9 **excuse** 269:5 276:12 execution 40:13 executive 70:19 95:21 131:19 169:3 171:2 199:20 249:2 299:5 exemption 176:19 exercise 119:10 exhausted 226:18 exist 129:10 155:22 166:2 278:11 295:21 existence 268:17 existing 89:9 122:16 227:18 263:14 298:21 exists 32:2.20 33:11 155:5 225:5 266:2 **expand** 33:9 51:22 110:21 115:10 215:11 279:4 312:12 **expanded** 75:7 92:20 202:13 250:3 expanding 236:9 299:13 **expansion** 38:2 73:6 88:9 255:22 259:19 261:4 expansions 84:21 110:13 expect 152:7,13 229:11 232:13 270:19 285:18 297:13 expected 14:21 213:4 291:12 expenditure 110:18 **expense** 230:10 **experience** 43:9 145:19 204:16 experienced 275:6,21 experiencing 67:12 expertise 19:7 **experts** 11:3 27:17 expired 255:12 287:17 297:19 explain 143:13 146:21 237:5 277:4 **explained** 16:4 82:14 243:9

explanation 290:6 explanations 315:9 explicit 251:3 exploited 75:2 explored 139:12 exploring 45:12 119:15 exponentially 143:6 export 3:19 5:17 28:10 28:14 29:8 196:5 224:17,21 228:9 230:2 232:22 233:17 253:7 254:3 256:11 256:16,18 268:5,12 271:8,9 284:21 286:9 298:9,16 319:22 **exported** 197:11 241:1 257:13

exporter 263:1 exporters 128:21 256:12 276:15 exporting 75:8,8 92:21 92:21 229:9

exports 24:11,21 26:2 50:17 129:1 197:3,6 224:18 225:1,19 226:1 229:10,14 230:13,14 241:16,19 242:13 245:14,16 249:12 253:10,16,17 256:14,22 271:15 304:3 318:21 exposed 66:18

express 13:9 76:6 expressed 170:20 221:4

extend 17:14 extended 189:3 258:2 extension 95:5 144:10 extensive 10:14 43:17 extensively 242:11 extent 52:20 159:5 extract 147:10

extraordinary 72:4 Extreme 287:5 extremely 20:16 129:19 144:16 170:15

Exxon 259:6 260:21 eyes 249:15

F

fabricate 202:21 fabricated 71:5,17 72:8 73:12,15 74:3,9 75:8 75:11 91:10,22,22 92:7,17,21 93:2,9,18 94:1,9,14 95:2,3 101:12 104:21 106:1 200:18 **fabrication** 74:13 76:19 81:16 91:19 93:5 95:10 201:4 fabricator 203:17,22 204:12 **fabricators** 71:8 72:17 73:10 91:4 92:10 200:2,13 201:19,22 202:16 214:9 215:1 face 58:1,16 128:11 197:2,7 233:19 245:8 247:2 256:20 311:19 319:7 faced 139:16 300:4 faces 31:5 183:19 facilitate 131:8 224:18 facilities 10:22 24:4 37:19 54:7 76:17,19

149:4 169:13 198:10 201:6 205:20 261:16 262:9 263:15 280:11 facility 34:17 35:9 37:16 38:5,10 71:17 77:21 111:3 119:11 137:5,7,16 155:6 158:19 163:11 169:22 212:2 236:7,10 237:19 259:5 facing 99:3 257:1,12

81:16 96:3,20 137:20

facing 99:3 257:1,12
fact 13:18 35:19 93:9
97:3 99:4 103:14
119:7 122:3 133:17
143:11 149:5 161:15
169:19 174:9 190:8
191:3,11 193:6 195:2
204:2 206:17 207:13
213:17 217:8 271:4
273:1 291:17 292:17
307:20 315:16
facto 289:7

factor 28:9 264:2 factories 55:3 123:19 129:8 163:18 165:20 factors 128:14 factory 137:21 138:4

182:20 183:5 218:3 238:21 256:6 facts 48:2 186:20 187:11 251:19 284:8 294:20 314:17 315:2 315:7 316:11

factual 289:6,21 factually 316:11 fail 69:8 251:16 failed 290:5 Failing 69:5

failure 26:18 46:8 47:4

193:22 202:15
fair 85:12 130:21 136:7
138:16 166:9 183:8
190:6,12 192:13
224:11 236:13 243:18
246:4
fairly 41:2
faith 287:9
fake 25:5,11
fall 79:11 91:12 135:12
139:22 155:12 176:11
176:16 186:14 249:4
258:7
fallen 226:6

falling 67:17 false 25:12 186:9 families 189:2 238:8 253:21 family 82:6,8 85:2,8

family-owned 66:5 205:15 far 33:11 93:3 121:20

122:6 156:13 183:10 201:12 203:22 256:17 308:3 320:14

226:6 253:11 255:1,9 farmer 252:12 257:5 farmers 2:17 226:6 252:8,16,19,20,22

farm 189:10 224:5

252:8,16,19,20,22 254:2,4,11,16,19 255:6 258:1,4,8 fast 230:7

fast-growing 145:2 fastest 121:4 128:21 161:12 264:10

fate 190:12

Fath 2:13 4:22 146:4,5 146:6,8 151:19 165:2 165:9 166:6

favor 184:6 207:1 favorable 220:21 favored 151:11

favorite 104:6 feasible 123:6 238:5

feature 121:18 125:10 259:7 features 74:20

federal 7:20 8:7 10:5,19 17:9 45:3 156:8,17,19 175:8 201:12 231:11 Federation 186:5 282:7 feed 24:21

feel 10:22 105:10 202:10 206:11 feeling 257:6 feet 77:13 189:9 felt 124:13 125:7 204:8

II.			334
200.0 200.7	22.7 54.0 00:40 40 40	200.4 202.4 200.44	400,40 050,04 070,45
268:8 296:7	33:7 54:9 66:10,18,19	288:1 292:4 298:11	189:19 250:21 273:15
fence 189:8	67:20,22 68:3,9 69:5	301:22	278:17 281:10,21
fencing 189:10	69:7 97:16,20 107:5	five-fold 241:20	289:8 316:5,16
Feniger 2:14 5:4 188:8	166:17 172:4,6,10,17	five-minute 9:13	forefront 35:6
188:10,11,15,17,19	173:2 183:14,18	five-year 79:16 84:1	foreign 34:19 39:10
194:6 210:22 211:10	184:11,20 187:19	fix 85:14	46:7 67:19 68:11 75:6
fertilizer 150:20	191:7 193:20 212:8	flag 208:11	92:19 96:16 110:19
fewer 69:10 141:4	230:1	flashing 9:13 64:5	111:22 133:14 158:7
145:14 268:11,11,12	finishes 294:1	flat 132:2,9,20 133:1,4	173:14 174:17,19,21
FHWA 106:16	finishing 8:18	133:11,20 134:3,4	174:21 176:19 177:5
FIE 316:19 317:6	firm 59:21 60:19 146:20	135:22 136:10 154:14	200:15,17 202:2
field 33:10 80:13 85:5	292:7,8 297:21 314:3	154:16	203:16 204:12 217:6
100:3 101:3 108:12	firmly 39:18 125:21	flaw 294:20	217:9,11 218:2,7
130:17 136:8 179:14	285:3	flawed 186:8 294:19	241:8 245:9 247:15
183:8,10 184:9	firms 42:13 60:12 87:14	314:16 315:1,2	247:19 249:3 256:22
187:15 190:6 192:22	156:12 286:10	flaws 69:11	262:22 284:14 289:7
193:7 195:21 206:22	first 9:5 12:14,22 13:18	flexibility 164:21	289:9 307:7,9 308:1
208:9,16,18 217:17	16:6 20:22 36:8 48:15	flight 23:16	316:19 317:1,13
246:5 258:5	52:4 63:11 65:21	Flint 119:16	319:6,10
Fifth 291:6	71:14 79:13 81:12	flooding 202:9	Foreign-Trade 34:16
fifty 125:1	82:1 83:9 85:6 97:13	floor 9:20	36:18 56:22
fighters 27:1	101:15 102:12,21	Florida 71:9 250:9	foreseeable 239:1
fighting 68:13 115:19	114:11 125:1 132:20	flow 146:16 187:6	forever 72:5
115:20 190:8	143:15 144:6 147:16	flows 233:13	forge 119:21
figures 297:14	152:2 168:16 175:7	focus 32:16 43:8 70:22	forged 114:21 116:12
filed 14:9 45:17	194:18 205:11 216:21	239:9 241:11 244:6	118:6,17
files 14:10	218:9 220:1 223:14	262:17 271:8 273:10	forging 119:8,15 156:5
fill 125:11	225:8 229:3 235:11	focused 6:19 77:2	158:19
fill-in 51:2	247:7 251:14 265:16	234:6	forgings 116:11
fills 286:21	268:21 281:18 282:4	focuses 250:21	form 14:19 34:19 66:10
filtered 276:18	283:16 285:7 288:9	focusing 170:13	90:1 110:17 190:17
filters 112:13	291:15 292:22 305:6	fold 250:5	261:14 266:5 305:9
final 22:15 42:9 43:2	306:19 311:1	follow 220:14 221:2	formal 302:3 303:3,16
95:12 146:3 164:9	first-responders 29:15	227:7	formation 260:21 295:2
184:1 188:3 191:5	firsthand 32:20 185:6	follow-up 64:13 110:10	former 161:17 190:12
200:10 205:8 217:16	232:3	112:17 153:7 276:13	250:8,9
221:22 264:21 301:20	Firstly 302:19	281:8 309:1	forming 190:21
303:18 315:18 316:12	Fish 2:14 4:14 95:12,13	following 14:7 34:6	forms 230:1
finalize 33:17	95:15,20 101:7 102:3	138:15 167:5 298:19	Fort 169:22
finally 28:6 73:3 116:21	102:12 103:9	302:17 303:3	forth 132:15 220:2
134:2 135:20 187:8	fittings 96:1	follows 57:6	Forty 229:18
187:22 193:6 252:1	five 5:7 9:8 13:2 18:13	followup 29:4	forum 274:13
258:8 268:18	23:10 30:6 34:2 39:15	food 112:12 194:19,22	forward 48:6 63:2 90:11
finances 37:3	43:4 56:20 57:6,18	195:2,11 196:1	108:10 114:1 119:21
financial 39:2	62:18,21 63:13,22	198:15 199:1 213:5	151:18 167:4,6 180:4
financially 82:5	64:4 66:1 70:15 75:22	225:18,21 242:2	222:14 225:5 243:11
find 60:21 112:11	80:18 85:20 87:11	253:4 310:1	244:8 246:1 272:21
113:16 119:11 128:10	90:16 93:1 95:13	foot 236:6,10	273:7 274:17 301:15
277:9 318:7 320:2	114:13 120:12 126:10	footnote 304:17	forwarded 69:19
finding 7:8 60:15	131:16 136:21 140:5	footnotes 314:19	forwarding 118:22
findings 14:7 28:21	142:1 146:5 167:9	footprint 96:13 277:18	fostering 295:16
224:1 285:3 289:20	168:19 174:1 178:5	force 84:19 105:18	found 26:20 45:5 79:1
314:22 316:4,12	182:18 183:4 188:10	111:18 112:2 127:12	96:16 133:6 158:22
fine 44:15 116:13 163:3	194:9 199:14 205:10	128:9,16 132:16	237:10,11 248:11
312:9 313:3	223:17 228:16 231:17	184:9 192:5	281:4 295:7
finish 9:14 164:18	234:18 240:14 246:9	forced 19:9 21:6,13	foundation 71:13 77:4
190:22	252:9 256:14 258:14	61:17 62:8 84:20	77:7,14 150:17
finished 30:17 31:1	265:1 276:10 283:18	110:12 117:15 119:22	founded 81:13 146:20
II	ı	I	I

235:8 236:11 furnaces 215:8 99:10 103:1 111:20 301:2.11 303:9.20 founder 70:18 80:21 **furnish** 291:9 155:1 193:7 194:20 316:21 317:6,13,17 234:20 further 19:21 23:6 38:2 208:19 248:7 281:6 318:18 319:1 320:2 government's 14:2,17 foundries 166:9 41:11 51:21 89:17 282:12 302:9 309:7 four 5:1 19:22 26:6 99:10 106:13 118:4 309:14,15 310:19,20 79:15 83:12 86:6 90:8 56:19 64:3 78:12 93:7 124:6 171:13 172:20 311:10 316:13 318:10 government- 46:18 109:16 144:7 146:21 191:14 192:16 231:22 governments 287:8 given 10:6 19:5 58:20 176:12 186:15 189:15 259:4 308:13 64:7 70:4 135:3 301:15 196:10 207:22 211:14 fuses 38:17 185:12 204:2 229:14 grain 252:13 255:7,8,22 228:21 242:3 317:5,7 future 37:13 61:22 261:20 262:8 276:15 256:4 309:20 **four-door** 116:5 118:11 239:1 246:18 Grand 72:4 248:5,6 315:13 four-minute 9:12 259:19 260:20 261:22 gives 247:11 grant 120:7 Fourteen 235:14 262:5 264:17 284:14 giving 95:18 168:22 grape 275:20 grapes 255:2 fourth 231:17 252:11 248:9 298:13 G 291:1 Glasgow 146:20 grave 72:10 fourth-largest 258:20 global 16:21 20:19 49:6 gain 234:1 285:6 gray 206:5 **FR** 6:14 7:21 49:22 88:4 114:16 greater 92:2 105:12 game 195:22 fracking 148:12 gap 286:21 118:18 127:5 128:16 235:17 236:4 251:22 fraction 22:12 100:14 131:4,9 139:1,12 greatest 256:16 270:1 garages 78:12 greatly 39:2 89:1 233:4 frame 162:13 garden 189:10 211:3 146:18 196:2 206:8 framework 130:18 227:22 232:18 253:7 290:22 277:16 gas 146:11 147:8 149:2 259:9 265:8 269:11 243:4 319:17 green 9:11 64:3 Frank 3:4 298:10 151:13 200:4 201:10 284:12 286:13 290:20 **Greg** 3:9 5:12 258:13 Franklin 219:8 215:8 260:10 278:2 292:8 Grewe 1:16 12:2,3 frankly 118:15 213:13 **gas-free** 237:9 globalization 18:17 50:12,13 51:6,10,14 138:17 **Griggs** 2:15 4:13 80:17 213:16 qas-powered 277:21 free 2:17 10:22 74:9 gather 71:20 globally 142:10 158:15 80:18,20,21 85:17 113:22 133:15 138:16 **GATS** 40:2,5 165:22 206:10 234:2 109:8,14 110:16 183:7 199:5 224:10 **globe** 35:5 246:19 grind 197:12 **GATT** 288:17 305:5,19 241:6 243:18 252:8 253:5 269:8 **grinding** 147:8 151:2 306:1.2.3 252:16.20 254:4 gauge 190:21 **goal** 201:15 224:10 **grinding-** 147:14 258:8 284:12 299:5 Gaylord 71:21 235:5 247:15 ground 71:15 224:20 **Freedom** 71:13 **gear** 268:21 goals 132:14 177:16 group 2:13 4:22 138:4 freight 187:2 Gen 116:4 236:15 239:2 291:8 146:4,18,19 148:7 goods 21:3 22:10 30:18 frequency 138:2 general 2:20 5:14 38:11 165:3 217:5 295:7 grow 241:6 fresh 256:11,13 276:6 40:1 60:21 65:13 66:3 31:1 32:8 33:7 54:10 66:15 67:20 68:3 69:5 frog 133:12 78:13 85:22 142:3 **Growers** 252:13,15 front 9:10 11:1 64:2 147:4 167:17,18 69:8 112:11,12 growing 20:19 88:3 72:3 120:1 169:3 283:17,21 122:10 124:5 125:2 115:2 118:11 121:4 fruit 253:9 275:17 286:17 288:3 315:7 128:18 135:6 172:6 128:20,21 129:3,4 144:15 161:12,12,20 frustrated 117:21 generally 9:21 133:15 198:15,17 230:15 **FTZ** 37:11 39:8,10 142:20 159:6 162:14 241:19 244:12 245:14 230:8,9 235:15 **FTZs** 216:18 176:4 216:12 238:1 269:10 275:15,17 264:10,11 **fueled** 79:2 generate 144:12,18,20 288:9 300:6 312:19 grown 115:6 143:6 full 10:13 30:16 60:19 **gotten** 105:8 146:19 241:20 242:4 generation 36:8 52:13 government 6:21 11:4 105:12,17 111:9 66:5 252:12 278:4 223:20 227:17 gentlemen 120:15 15:10 16:10 17:4,8 grows 52:20 fuller 41:15 288:1 298:11 29:3 39:18 48:5 75:2 growth 29:12 44:8 93:3 fully 41:2 50:2 77:2 geopolitical 246:16 79:3,5,13 80:10 82:16 127:18 131:9 161:18 81:5 121:4 225:4 82:19 84:1 85:4,15 182:7 229:15 241:22 279:8,13 **function** 186:22 87:21 88:8,19 97:19 242:7 253:22 256:16 George 2:10 3:16 4:7,8 functioning 200:6 33:22 34:5 39:14 119:18 126:14 133:6 259:4 260:20 264:7 functions 147:5 264:17 137:9 133:13 156:7,8,14,17 fundamentally 186:8 156:17,19,22 175:10 guards 10:22 **Georgia** 169:12 266:7 198:20 201:12 225:12 guess 278:7 getting 105:4 246:18 **funded** 44:3 274:12 226:20 264:16 272:6 quide 20:1 funding 47:11 105:9 287:13 294:21 295:11 quidelines 287:5 **qist** 61:9 funnel 312:21 296:17 298:3 299:21 **guides** 106:22 give 21:18 22:16,19

harmed 43:13 44:6 45:4 **helped** 241:6 guilty 45:6 78:18 79:10 47:9 48:8 71:2 84:11 **Guiqing** 3:4,18 5:17 helpful 51:6 105:13 **Holman** 1:16 11:14,15 287:21 298:7,14 112:5 153:4 159:4 256:1 56:10 65:18,19 **Gulf** 260:22 harmful 77:16 82:20 **helps** 56:1 261:17 105:19,20 106:17 gun 176:22 217:20,22 201:16 244:18 **Herrnstadt** 2:16 4:5 home 88:4 103:12,15 18:11,13,15,16 23:8 218:4 harming 49:16 104:1,7 121:13 238:7 guns 174:6 harmonized 30:18 51:17 52:3 53:15 61:2 242:8 245:5 257:10 33:18 38:14 72:14 61:5.10 277:10,17,17,18 Н 132:10 hesitation 171:8 Homeland 1:14 hackers 28:2 harsh 115:18 **HGS** 117:4 hometown 274:14 hacking 13:19 15:4 harvest 25:4 258:7 **Hi** 50:12 64:19 honest 266:16 87:8 harvested 25:21 high 3:12 4:14 89:13,15 honestly 117:22 161:10 half 206:18 220:7 241:1 **Hawley** 267:6 90:14 91:2,3 121:17 honor 252:17 281:18 Hayden 2:15 4:6 23:9 143:1 148:12 151:4 honorable 125:18 hallowed 71:16 23:10,12,13 30:4 176:7,8 196:22 201:8 **honored** 189:2 50:14 51:4,7,13 235:5 239:11 259:10 hood 116:3 hampering 172:13 hand 111:9 206:13 **HAYS** 2:16 265:21 287:1 300:8 hope 9:4 45:4 46:13 he'll 120:6 126:1 130:13 131:5 289:11 high- 260:12 hand-held 267:20 headcount 38:6 high-efficiency 36:6 244:7 hand-in-hand 290:4 **heading** 185:20 high-grade 34:17 hopeful 156:13 **handful** 68:18 **headings** 286:19 high-level 131:6 hopefully 62:11 handle 59:18 211:14 headquartered 44:5 high-paying 80:8 **horsepower** 162:9,15 **hands** 28:19 70:19 114:17 132:1 high-quality 149:6,8 hospitals 77:9 handy 282:10 169:11 235:19 host 224:16 272:15 headquarters 137:19 high-rise 77:8 hot 84:16 110:8 190:21 hang 96:1 119:22 161:16 259:2 high-strength 87:19 193:18 hangers 96:2 97:12,21 98:20 99:3,14,17 health 25:2 27:15 high-technology 262:9 Hotel 71:21 100:22 268:19 high-wage 262:9 hour 63:5 healthcare 27:20 233:7 higher 122:7 145:12 hours 55:6 109:15 hanging 96:8 haphazard 251:13 hear 59:3 167:8 175:2 180:14 187:5,6 255:9 142:12 226:1 happen 153:20 201:11 heard 183:1 313:16 255:13 263:10 267:18 household 218:16 211:12 315:10 267:21 268:8 271:6 households 135:15 happened 104:1 hearing 1:5,10 6:7,15 285:9,11 290:16 **housing** 17:13 happening 110:6 6:18,19 7:22 8:4,12 highest 214:17 Houston 214:13 259:3 276:19 8:15,17 9:8 10:17,18 highlight 228:21 **Howe** 1:17 151:22,22 happens 117:7 10:21 11:5 13:5,18 highlighted 136:2 153:5 165:2 166:4 happily 145:7 50:18 51:12 73:1 240:5 241:8 275:3 168:5,5 223:5,5 **happy** 18:8 23:6 29:19 95:17 168:22 199:16 **highly** 87:17 149:6 280:16 283:7,7 52:3 70:12 145:22 207:11 244:15 257:3 151:7 179:14 200:2 **HTS** 39:1,4 61:12 75:11 188:6 199:9 240:9 298:14 312:6 202:18 253:2 76:11,13 81:9 83:5 272:10 281:3,7 282:9 heart 115:15 197:16 **Hills** 114:17 115:2 86:17 91:9 94:19 95:4 99:19 101:12 121:1 heartbreaking 214:10 116:19 306:14 **Harbor** 71:22 heat 215:8 hinges 116:2,3,14,18 138:18 140:1 158:3 hard 125:12 200:14 117:5 158:4,20 173:6 175:3 177:4 heaters 169:7 heating 169:6,7 hire 60:6 84:22 179:17,19 186:15 208:2 267:8 heavily 169:18 200:17 189:6,7 195:13 harder 165:20 273:9 hiring 161:15 280:6.10 236:2 247:18 263:7 **historically** 92:17 192:2 261:12,13 262:11 hardware 26:22 103:13 heavy 115:1 262:17 197:4 278:4 286:14,18 211:22 265:7 278:2 history 148:7 267:1 293:21 harm 15:18 71:3 78:17 held 6:18 204:5 241:9 hit 200:14 230:11 280:6 **hub** 127:19 100:9 124:17 139:2 257:8 280:9 huge 32:3 59:22 80:5 148:5 149:16 173:8 helicopters 27:3 hits 257:10 220:5 **Hello** 65:4 hold 38:3 40:18 46:20 Hulu 142:13 177:17 182:5 215:9 231:15 235:1 236:18 help 11:8 32:10 40:18 62:20 157:7 191:18 human 41:22 105:2 48:4 79:7 85:14 120:7 holding 6:6 13:5 199:16 humidity 35:18 238:14 239:21 245:16 **holds** 142:7 245:20 254:16 260:6 130:21 133:2 195:16 hundred 18:20 205:17 208:17 235:6 267:14 **Holland** 111:2 **hundreds** 44:7 46:15 267:2 284:17,20 290:8,8 297:4 299:15 270:1 313:2 hollow 76:14 77:11 115:22 125:9 142:18

196:14 235:16 241:17 193:4 211:18 213:4 253:19 257:4 261:5 249:7 254:14 255:1 242:5 300:20 213:17 215:21 227:14 264:2 265:3 271:13 261:6 264:3 272:8 hurt 149:15 256:2 229:16 232:8,12 293:5 296:15 267:13 284:12 285:10 238:17 244:13,19 importantly 52:14 imposition 39:17 98:6 285:11 286:8,12 256:8 258:1 259:15 132:13 205:16 268:5 124:15 140:13 204:10 287:2 290:14 301:9 260:2 262:4 264:3 285:22 303:10 234:10 238:13 239:17 hurting 140:3 268:13 281:10 285:9 importation 251:2 244:9 262:10 husband 118:21 impacted 36:13 50:16 imported 22:11 37:11 impossible 37:12 **HVAC** 170:2 61:18 78:10 88:22 67:11 73:15,21 88:14 181:12 201:3 **imprint** 71:11 102:7,14 103:10,10 92:4 93:1 94:10 hydro 110:21 109:2,3 140:13 120:22 124:5 128:2,5 impromptu 25:18 166:14 271:4 130:9 133:10 136:10 **improve** 46:3 54:20,22 impacting 225:22 176:2 177:7 178:22 **IAM** 18:20 131:3 308:13 ice 237:5 impacts 50:4 106:14 179:19,19 180:9 inaccurate 289:21 **Idaho** 203:19 125:5,6 228:22 232:4 181:3,6,20 185:18 inadvertently 86:21 244:18 252:18 263:16 186:14 214:5 218:16 idea 221:12 315:7 90:2 ideas 47:15 268:1,18 270:20 219:1 255:20 264:4 inappropriate 175:6 290:10 **identical** 198:3,3 300:17 285:15 286:10 297:11 impairment 306:1 255:10 **importer** 31:17 297:1 incentive 67:21 74:11 **identified** 70:8 88:8 **impede** 284:11 **importers** 187:1 290:14 172:7 99:20 132:22 138:12 impeded 44:7 importing 210:8 incentives 123:9 238:2 impediments 228:1 imports 14:9 15:3 42:19 incentivize 99:11 184:4 147:4 151:11 175:10 175:14 231:2 260:19 imperative 201:21 47:13 49:22 68:3,13 232:14 272:16,18 293:1 224:19 228:5 68:16 73:12 74:4 inch 98:15 155:12,12 implement 182:12 77:15 78:1,19 79:2,14 inches 77:13 98:14.15 294:7,17 296:3 272:7 290:9 291:3 80:1 82:13.15 83:4.8 incident 87:16 identify 21:15 101:12 101:18 150:10 244:2 303:2 84:10 86:12 87:1 include 16:1 27:1 30:17 identifying 20:13 293:9 implementation 36:15 89:10,16 90:3 91:13 33:17 50:1,3 66:22 39:8 57:15 176:14 99:22 127:20 151:3,9 79:8 83:2 86:17 89:2 idle 55:3 ignore 294:19 314:17 306:10 151:12 152:9 181:18 95:1 102:3 127:5 315:2 implemented 38:2,7 182:13 183:12.13.15 130:19 145:4 175:5 202:7,11 **II** 39:19,20 226:8 248:18 257:19 183:18 184:22 187:13 **III** 3:16 4:7 33:22 260:5 316:22 187:19 192:13 196:7 included 30:21 31:2 ill-229:4 implementing 226:2 196:9,13 199:2,4 33:19 41:7 54:10 illegal 15:19 16:22 18:3 implements 263:11 211:11 212:8 213:14 86:12 99:19 100:13 79:7 80:10 83:12 implication 256:1 218:21 221:19 225:13 104:22 112:20 128:4 illegally 15:2 **implore** 85:13 233:11 244:12,21 129:6,18 140:22 **Illinois** 76:17 297:5 **import** 3:19 5:17 16:18 247:16 254:8 285:20 173:2 176:18 193:18 illustrated 87:2 37:1 79:21 88:1 94:12 297:4 299:13,14 195:13 200:10 230:4 illustrates 15:8 148:15 154:14,21 312:13 263:3 155:15,21 156:2 imagine 265:11 impose 17:2 73:5 79:5 includes 14:6 20:10 157:17 158:12,15 128:1 141:15 147:13 23:3 24:3,14 29:18 imbalance 129:16 imbalanced 196:12 159:19 162:19 177:3 149:22 187:18,22 93:15 94:19 143:2 169:16 171:21 202:6 immediate 38:8 57:1 179:6 180:1,5,15 215:9 226:22 248:16 immediately 42:19 186:10 208:8 210:7 250:16 302:16 304:2 261:14 266:15 210:15 211:9 217:18 304:19 318:20,20 108:7 including 10:1 16:16 **immense** 144:6 271:5 297:3 298:8,15 imposed 13:11 16:6 19:1 20:11 24:17 impact 36:19 37:3 39:2 301:6 313:17 47:12 49:5 66:15 81:6 28:22 35:13 38:10,15 49:7 57:1 61:14 80:4 importance 145:1 83:19 100:21 122:10 47:13 74:18 75:7 150:4 185:11 225:11 203:1 206:8 236:13 79:16 80:6 82:22 83:16 92:2,7 95:9 259:10 225:14 245:7 287:1 83:20 84:1 87:15 102:10 103:4,7 105:22 106:7 107:22 important 29:1 42:6 296:9 300:3 319:1 88:20 89:3,10 90:5 47:19 83:1 89:17 91:22 94:1 96:1 99:16 108:5 112:18 113:16 **imposes** 226:19 245:12 91:16 95:18 127:19 imposing 40:17 49:1 100:7 124:10 143:18 113:19 124:15 135:2 141:13 143:13 145:15 136:2 144:16 149:12 82:20 88:13 129:13 175:12 189:8 226:11 147:17 152:3 176:10 155:1 168:22 205:13 130:3,9 135:5,21 227:19 231:16 242:11 206:9 222:3 232:22 139:13 151:9 185:17 242:20 246:21 253:13 181:19,22 182:1

231:10 234:22 247:7

241:11 244:2 246:16

184:21 186:7 190:18

255:2 257:7 259:4,11

275:14,17 288:15 303:11 277:10 294:15 307:19 inquiring 158:10 299:4,9,18 300:5 indicating 303:13 308:1,17 309:18 inroads 170:14 196:7 311:22 indicted 216:11 218:13 industry's 79:16 inserting 23:19 indictment 87:11 inclusion 173:6 175:20 inferenced 311:21 inside 98:19 222:1,1 176:9 184:11 186:6 indirect 232:11 influence 42:17 Insignia 132:3 195:16 231:20 262:3 **indirectly** 134:5,15 inform 11:7 InSinkErator 3:8 5:5 income 55:9 135:15 **information** 13:19 14:7 194:8,14,16,21 195:7 284:5 224:5 226:6 individual 26:20 14:12,18,22 15:4,9,16 196:11 198:3 inconsistent 135:16 individuals 8:20 238:9 21:3 28:4 29:20 43:18 InSinkErator's 197:12 induction 137:12 278:18 288:11 291:15 64:13 87:7 101:17 197:19 inconsistently 288:15 industrial 2:16 16:7,13 121:20 151:4 178:14 inspected 116:19 289:21 307:15 311:20 289:1 19:22 51:21 52:9 inspections 257:9 **Incorporated** 34:1 53:12 79:15 80:8 312:2 275:15 90:15 131:15 141:22 83:20 91:18 94:7 informed 63:21 install 71:5 108:7 infrared 175:5 increase 32:13 33:14 132:22 138:3 146:19 installation 204:18 148:21 175:11 206:4 37:10 58:10 67:5,8 infrastructure 18:2 installations 17:13 83:7 93:10 99:6 239:7,10 240:20 25:2 27:19 53:9 72:20 214:14 installed 71:15 204:8 102:15,18 103:17 289:15 290:20 317:15 74:17 75:4 92:14 127:7 130:4 135:11 instances 239:12 317:18 318:1 93:12,15 151:14 **industries** 3:12 4:14 150:1 172:14 173:12 infrastructures 318:4 **instant** 304:7 181:5 185:1 187:9 15:10,12 19:1 49:16 infringed 197:11 instantaneous 37:2 192:18 212:13 216:6 53:13 66:7 67:2 88:4 infringement 196:13 instantly 54:12 227:3,11 245:2 255:8 90:15 91:2 94:5 infringers 198:8 Institute 2:10 5:11 91:6 255:14,16,17,21 105:22 108:1 115:1 246:9.13 infusion 295:5 261:8 288:8 294:9.13 instructions 8:14 63:19 133:9.10 141:9 ingenuity 236:12 297:8 300:14 313:19 150:22 163:1 200:10 inherently 71:1 insure 140:6 314:5 227:10 253:5 263:17 initial 6:18 64:1 171:5 integrate 143:19 increased 67:9 68:7 264:10 267:3 284:22 229:19 255:11,13 integrated 127:6 253:3 83:9 93:2 106:9 107:9 286:9,15,16 287:2 **initiate** 319:10,13 integration 124:1 117:9 128:12 150:17 288:5 289:17 290:15 initiated 6:12 integrity 208:1 150:22 172:11 192:19 308:7 312:21 313:1 initiating 47:18 265:17 Intel 59:12 317:17,19,22 318:5 215:15 227:3.14 initiation 6:14 57:15 intellectual 6:10 11:22 231:10 255:19 257:9 industry 14:1 16:13 88:17 227:19 14:3 24:16 26:6 31:1 275:13,14 286:12 19:15 24:2 25:15,17 initiative 205:13 31:6,12,20 32:10 33:5 300:8,19 313:18 26:7 29:13 35:7 50:16 injecting 124:19 43:11 44:18 45:22 increases 25:11 37:9 52:15 56:19 58:16 injured 34:10 180:6 47:5 60:2 65:9 69:12 93:13 144:22 145:1 66:17 68:13 70:7 192:12 245:11 69:15,17 82:18 121:5 175:21 177:16 313:21 78:22 82:13 83:1,22 injuring 82:13 122:1 127:15 130:19 increasing 102:20 84:2 85:5,7,9 89:11 **injury** 180:5 139:2 143:21,22 122:17 150:2 201:18 89:12 93:5 94:21 inner 117:5 144:1 145:7 147:22 312:13 105:4,5,10 106:3,14 innocent 300:1,21 151:5 196:12,19 increasingly 121:21 107:1 113:5 124:7 197:8,15 198:12 301:9 246:17 126:17 127:2,21 innovate 77:18 145:16 231:3 236:14 239:13 129:22 130:11 133:4 246:21 250:19 259:12 **incremental** 113:11,18 266:8 incurring 245:9 133:15 134:4 135:11 innovated 15:6 274:10 279:5 292:18 138:17 139:9 140:6 **innovation** 6:10 14:4 293:4,8 298:4 299:12 indelible 71:10 independence 18:1 149:13 150:6 155:2 35:11 82:18 139:3 303:21 201:20 202:12,22 165:16,17 170:2,18 203:1 208:1 293:12 intelligence 87:12 205:6 171:14 172:12,21 295:16 303:21 intended 34:9 86:19 innovations 295:21 89:8,20 171:10 independent 126:19 180:6 192:11 196:4 162:21 196:17 198:18,19 **innovative** 36:3 53:12 267:14 independently 120:17 200:3,9,12 202:7 144:11 235:19 243:12 intends 318:19 Indiana 199:22 205:20 203:10 207:7 210:18 265:6 intent 75:14 135:17 263:6 280:11 297:5 211:3,7 214:3,4,12,22 innovatively 274:6 239:6 intention 263:21 indicate 160:16 209:21 218:19 219:3 229:5,9 input 184:15 245:2 276:5 304:10 229:16 230:6,10,12 **inputs** 54:3 171:21 intentional 200:22 indicated 57:5 211:1 231:5 256:15,21 172:5,14,16 231:21 intentions 118:7 170:16 212:5 215:7 239:6 260:17 264:14 275:21 244:13 261:5 268:2 **Inter-** 6:5

interest 19:6 75:7 170:20 269:1 290:12 291:18 interested 41:18 101:13 105:5 290:13 interesting 219:13 interests 28:17 46:7 75:6 92:20 100:10 101:5 173:9,18 182:5 231:16 254:16 291:8 intermediaries 72:18 international 1:10 2:1,2 2:9,14,16 3:5,13,16 4:5,8,14,16 5:15 11:2 11:12,22 12:3,6 18:12 18:18 19:5 34:1,7 54:1 65:5,6,10 72:2 88:9 95:13,21 106:8 114:12,16 146:17 168:8 192:10 227:18 243:5 247:5 248:15 249:9 259:11 284:22 287:5,22 288:4,11 291:13,15 302:7,13 317:15,18 318:1 internationally 96:21 109:5 internet 121:12 265:8 **interpreter** 3:4 298:10 interruptions 233:6 intervenes 201:13 intervention 299:20 intransigence 251:19 intricate 115:21 introduce 8:16 11:7.9 63:15 167:22 171:6 283:4 introduction 4:2 37:17 121:11 149:18 194:20 **intrusions** 87:5,13 88:20 inventing 137:10 inventory 39:8 141:8 277:21 inversion 183:17 184:21 217:14 invest 32:8 77:18 85:6 150:11 163:10 169:18 236:2 241:7 308:1 invested 82:4 139:20 169:21 233:9 294:4 investigated 304:11 investigation 6:8,12,13 6:16,21 7:4,7,18 8:11 13:21 16:20 21:9 43:16 47:2,19 57:7 61:19 62:4 81:2 85:16 88:17 149:20 176:13

195:15 225:13 226:4 226:15 242:12 244:5 247:8 265:18 272:17 274:4 289:3 296:14 298:21 299:22 303:14 304:12 305:2,8,15,17 305:20 306:4 309:16 investigations 66:16 294:8 296:3 investing 166:8 investment 37:13,16 41:16 58:12 93:11 133:14 156:9,12 228:1 237:20,20 238:4 242:15 251:2 259:18 260:15 261:9 262:5 264:7 273:17 273:22 284:14 285:5 289:14,16 290:1 294:22 295:9,14 299:11 307:7 308:5 308:13,13 309:4 310:4 316:20 317:1,9 317:12 investments 37:18 38:3 131:7 134:12 173:10 195:18 229:8 255:6 287:11 294:10 295:17 316:7 investors 119:17 295:8 invite 63:1 113:22 114:6 222:13 involve 69:14 105:15 289:3 303:5 305:3,9 305:15 involved 33:4 81:2 85:15 86:10 105:8 involves 303:14 304:12 involving 89:13 123:19 214:13 269:20 302:21 lowa 297:5 **IP** 29:5,11 43:9,14 44:2 46:2,3,18,20 47:10,20 48:8 56:7 59:14,17 60:4,7 134:3 207:5,12 208:20 242:22 288:3 293:1,11 294:7 iron 95:22 261:7 **ironic** 104:4 irrigation 206:5 **Island** 96:4 issue 29:2 30:9 41:3 48:5 141:11 192:9 211:22 221:11,12 273:11,16 **issued** 45:10 247:9

128:11 131:7 136:2 184:21 198:12 201:22 207:13 216:16 228:4 228:5 231:4 246:3 272:16 273:8 274:2 274:16 279:8,13 293:1,8,14 294:7,17 296:2 318:17 Italian 220:19,22 **Italy** 220:18 **ITC** 113:5 item 62:14 104:21 items 20:10 24:14 39:4 39:7 70:9 107:8 140:21 173:3 176:2 261:8,12 262:10 **ITI** 2:18 5:12 264:22 265:5 ITT 219:8 J **January** 45:5 84:12

238:1 243:10 **Japan** 121:21 140:9 160:3 250:4 253:13 **Japanese** 122:6,9 133:17 **Jason** 34:8 **Jay** 243:9 **Jeep** 116:2,22 294:2,14 **Jeff** 90:17 91:1 **Jeffrey** 3:12 4:14 90:14 jeopardize 194:1 jeopardy 119:4 **Jersey** 71:10 105:7 236:4.7 Jian 3:13 5:15 287:21 288:2,2 Jim 250:8 Jinping 46:4 299:8 308:10 **job** 84:13 204:4,6 264:8 280:4,20 287:13 294:11 jobs 19:21 20:8 22:7 28:6,11,14 32:14 33:8 33:14,15,15 41:14 44:9 50:10 53:2,11 61:15,22 62:9 78:8 80:8 105:15 108:10 115:22 117:2 118:2 121:6 123:13 124:9 125:2 127:18 128:5 141:16 148:9,18 149:6,8 177:19 182:7 193:13 195:9 201:4,8 209:3 227:7 229:14

230:21 232:1 236:8

241:18 242:8 244:20 253:18 263:7 268:11 284:5,6,14 290:18 **Joe** 2:11 5:10 234:16,21 235:4,10,14 236:12 236:22 239:12 240:2 **Joe's** 238:6,13 239:8 **John** 3:15 5:16 141:12 292:2 314:13,14 joined 130:16 241:20 265:19 joint 60:16 259:6 260:21 295:2 307:6 307:10,14,20 Jonathan 2:18 4:17 120:11,15 **Jones** 2:17 252:8,8,10 252:11 258:12 275:2 275:11 Joseph 2:11 5:10 234:16,20 **Josh** 2:18 5:12 264:22 280:16 judge 250:9 **Julia** 1:17 151:22 168:5 223:5 283:7 jump-starters 30:14 junior 235:4 iure 289:7 jurisprudence 248:13 305:5,19 jury 45:5 justice 44:14 45:10,15 87:11 justified 50:2

Κ **Kallmer** 2:18 5:12 264:22,22 265:2 270:7 280:17 281:2 281:14,17 282:2 Kazakhstan 257:17 keep 28:19 33:8 64:10 110:4,5 126:5 **keeping** 144:10 149:8 keg 2:11 5:3 178:4,8,9 179:11 180:6,12,14 181:21 182:11,13 209:22 kegs 178:11,12,16,16 178:17,19,22 179:3,6 179:7,18,19 180:2,8,9 180:16 181:3,7,9,17 181:20 182:2,9 210:5 210:7 **Kenosha** 195:4 **Kentucky** 205:20

303:9

issues 28:16 29:4 56:7

kept 192:6

key 13:20 24:20 26:6 229:21 250:17 94:22 105:4 lines 77:20 154:4 28:8,15 29:2 88:1 larger 87:21 163:6,8 legal 43:10 45:15,19 186:15 273:6 295:6 180:22 210:15 212:15 270:21 46:9 120:16 248:16 link 289:9 222:3 228:21 230:2 largest 13:15 30:13 306:9 318:17 list 7:14 13:12 16:2 18:6 253:13 255:1 269:21 34:22 71:7 88:11 89:5 legally 251:15 20:9 29:9 48:22 49:9 284:21 297:16 91:4 128:22 129:3 legitimate 226:14 228:4 49:14 50:3 62:6,10,11 kids 118:20 193:8 224:21 240:17 legitimately 208:18 62:11 68:22 72:14 kindly 138:11 253:15 256:17 259:7 legitimize 208:17 75:11 76:10 79:10 kinds 84:17 108:9 280:13 296:22 309:19 Leisure 42:5 83:3,14 86:13,17,21 89:4 90:1 91:11 92:1 112:14 268:21 lasers 174:7 length 46:5 King 2:18 4:17 120:11 **Lastly** 198:22 287:3 **Let's** 313:7 94:6 99:17 100:8 120:12,14,15 126:8 305:2 letter 45:10 243:9 102:4 104:22 110:15 latest 35:12 140:16 level 37:4 72:19 80:13 112:19,21 125:22 160:15,22 kit 123:16 launch 28:2 85:5 101:3 106:11 126:6 128:4 129:7,18 knock 207:15 208:21 108:12 130:17 136:8 **launched** 169:20 132:11,19 133:12 **knock-off** 197:22 225:12 235:4 237:8 156:20 179:13 183:8 136:11 145:4,20 **knocked** 207:7 Laurent 2:12 4:12 75:21 183:10 184:8 187:15 147:1 165:8 171:20 know-how 89:14 76:2 190:6 192:22 193:7 172:2,3 173:1,3,7 knowledge 185:6 law 3:15,22 5:16,18 195:20 208:18 244:6 175:13,21 184:14 known 21:16 239:15 31:15 247:5,13 292:3 276:20 187:19 189:7 191:6,8 248:5 292:7,8 297:21 leveling 100:2 193:22 195:13 200:10 Kopf 2:19 4:13 85:18,19 301:21 302:7,8,13,17 levels 33:10 37:14 202:4 212:19 215:9 85:21,22 90:13 112:4 304:1 314:3 319:6,9 229:19 230:5 231:20 58:11 89:14,15 112:8,9,16,22 113:1 319:11,17 211:13 213:9,18,20 232:8 240:4 257:12 lawful 46:6 261:5 262:16 277:12 **Korea** 121:21 160:9 217:17 279:9 lawn 211:3 leverage 56:1 87:22 278:8 288:8 301:2.3 Korean 122:6,9 133:17 laws 208:6 249:9 266:4 90:7 111:18 listed 176:16 **Korkos** 1:17 168:1,1 288:12 291:16 298:22 **levied** 227:4 listen 41:12 301:11 299:19 306:6,12 levying 225:20 288:13 listening 42:21 306:13 218:11,11 314:20 **LG** 159:19 listing 30:18 138:18 literally 78:3 202:15 lawsuit 31:11 license 143:16 159:16 label 132:3 lawsuits 32:5 159:22 215:5 labor 1:20 12:6,7 65:6,7 lawyers 60:6 198:11 licensed 121:4 lithium 285:16 105:8,10 109:9 lay 67:13 licensees 143:19 litigating 14:8 148:21 153:16 154:9 **LCD** 183:3,15 184:13 licensing 123:20 **litigation** 33:4 45:17 159:15 168:11 181:13 184:15,18 187:21 133:21 144:12 249:21 little 48:19 51:8 53:20 250:20 61:4 92:6 98:18 213:22 223:11 261:21 212:6,9 licensors 124:12 279:22 283:13 lead 19:21 28:22 227:11 104:15 148:6 155:1 laborers 151:6 230:18 233:12 260:5 life 115:19 262:8 157:7 209:16 213:17 lack 127:13 135:4 291:4 300:10 lifer 203:10 277:4 281:15 306:22 leader 144:11 169:6 light 64:2,3 175:5 **Liu** 2:20 5:14 283:17,18 lacking 138:20 207:2 283:19 287:16,19 lacks 289:6 190:21 ladies 120:14 leadership 145:18 **lights** 9:9,10 312:12,20 313:4 like-minded 224:9 live 268:7 laid 119:16 247:3 239:11 241:4,7 leading 51:21 78:21 228:6 250:4 livelihood 115:20 120:3 Lancaster 91:3 133:8 174:6 258:18 likelihood 270:1 landscape 139:1 266:8 253:1 lives 44:7 235:20 language 311:7 260:18 likewise 10:10 251:21 living 290:16 300:9 leads 42:9 53:13 315:18 limit 242:12 large 21:22 35:19,20 76:9 77:7 79:9 81:8 leap 133:12 limited 9:8 27:16 38:20 **LLC** 2:11,14,15 4:13 5:4 84:12,19 107:15 learned 25:22 33:1 67:4 135:15 141:4 5:10 80:18 188:9 108:2 109:13 128:19 leave 66:18 265:14 238:21 307:9 234:17 **LLP** 13:6 137:22 162:8 163:13 leaving 26:3 125:22 limiting 28:14 295:14 128:8 189:20 **limits** 310:4 **LNG** 214:14 187:5 193:12 204:3 Lechner 2:19 5:6 205:8 **Linda** 2:12 5:10 240:12 local 119:18 138:8 210:7,12 240:19 141:8 162:22 205:21 261:14 264:11 279:6 205:10,11,14 209:8 271:21 286:16 299:15 218:12 219:2 220:17 line 57:5 103:21 116:6 256:3 264:8 left 31:17 32:19 62:15 localization 127:13 largely 25:3 112:11 225:8 **lineage** 137:9 191:20 220:20 225:2 71:10 84:17 93:21 located 34:13 96:3

115:2 137:4 154:18 269:4 273:20 major 92:16 93:20 102:6,6,13 107:5 195:4 246:14 lots 272:22 133:17 158:6 164:17 129:12 143:18 145:6 location 184:2 221:22 **Louis** 111:4 207:12,13 241:12 159:17 160:7 170:7 locations 76:20 174:19 248:2 253:8 257:15 Louisiana 78:13 170:12,16 171:4,11 263:6 love 118:2 257:22 262:4 280:10 172:8 173:18 190:1 lock 273:4 low 78:15 112:2 123:13 295:17 191:9 193:3 199:18 locked 58:7 271:6 125:10 129:22 148:15 majority 121:15 124:13 201:18 209:2,5 211:4 logical 95:5 148:19 151:3,7 153:8 134:6 142:10,21,22 216:14,15 218:14 **logistics** 124:1 204:16 153:12,12,14 176:3,6 154:20 155:22 196:2 229:2 231:21 240:13 192:4,7 216:12 258:2 make-- 110:6 **logo** 198:4 240:16,19 241:2,6,10 long 20:5 36:7 47:21 286:20 making 22:15 35:7 241:13,14 242:6,9,16 low- 138:1 141:2 210:16 52:14 55:6 98:4 100:2 37:20 55:8 56:12 244:16,21 245:3,4,8 104:19 109:10 110:7 low-cost 129:14 180:17 97:12 130:5 170:14 245:11,17,21 246:3 148:7 189:9 210:2 191:17 170:21 171:22 177:13 258:19 262:21,22 182:8 204:15 220:5 272:17 273:5 278:2 211:6 214:2 218:18 low-priced 89:15 220:13 241:10 271:16 Lowe 2:20 4:17 126:9 233:13 288:20 300:12 313:20 long-258:9 126:10,12,13 131:13 Malware 28:3 manufactures 95:22 121:2 160:17 163:12 long-faced 242:9 152:2,10 153:2,6,8,16 man 37:21 long-term 37:7 116:16 management 81:18 172:19 188:21 206:1 **Lowe's** 103:12,15 104:1 124:16 277:10 111:13 293:20 longer 9:4 69:1,2 98:15 lower 67:18 68:5 78:5 manager 34:9 66:3 map 84:5 97:18 104:3 121:20 85:22 104:7 142:3 March 204:11 266:1 longstanding 71:1 Longview 77:21 139:11 153:17 165:18 margin 32:8 117:14 169:3 look 20:2 41:11,20 48:6 177:4 186:18 191:20 managing 146:15 220:5 314:7 90:11 110:20 125:18 233:22 224:18 margins 111:20 112:3 126:1 151:18 153:1 lowest 187:1 mandated 208:6 219:18 158:22 213:8 222:5 Lucern 4:16 mandatory 308:21 mark 9:12,13 72:5 Lucerne 2:9 114:12,16 market 14:21 15:22 225:5 249:15 268:13 manner 303:12 301:15 312:4 315:8 114:21 116:9 118:15 manufacture 32:15 22:11 34:21 42:11 317:21 54:6,11 69:2,4 71:5 57:22 59:13 71:7 looked 119:8 237:8 lunch 9:4,5 62:18 63:5 96:17 98:1 102:5 73:17 75:5 78:15 92:19 93:4 100:4,5 278:12 Lynchburg 70:20 126:20 143:19 148:10 **looking** 31:19 55:11 162:10,16,17 164:6 101:1 109:1 113:2 М 110:2,5 156:11,12 164:16 174:11 192:1 124:21 125:13,19 206:21 208:15 238:9 machine 37:22 55:16 193:19 195:5 200:2 128:21,22 130:18 267:4 272:13 274:3 147:9 200:13 202:16 204:1 135:3,7 169:6 170:5,6 277:19 281:3 machined 34:17 207:17 205:17 208:14 233:16 170:10,14 171:7 **looming** 297:3 machinery 3:19 5:17 263:5 174:8 179:7 183:4 loophole 94:3,22 137:14 153:19 286:15 manufactured 97:2,4 188:22 189:17 190:2 lose 52:12,14 80:7 286:17 298:9,16 99:2,9 116:18 118:15 190:9 191:19 192:15 224:20 251:11 257:20 machines 69:13,13 122:4 123:15 129:20 196:8 201:4 202:9 139:7,14 161:6 172:4 losing 61:22 77:22 207:2,4,19 211:5,15 138:1 147:7,15 85:11 124:20 218:7 148:19 162:9,15,17 176:4,7 180:17 212:14 215:19 224:20 190:20 197:10 200:20 262:21 225:12 268:20 224:21 225:4 228:10 loss 28:6 44:15 69:12 **Machinists** 2:17 4:6 202:8 206:16 216:13 230:2,13 233:3,14 69:17 78:7,7 125:2 221:17 237:2 244:12 241:9,21 242:1,13 18:12,18 177:19 196:14 201:8 Magna 158:14 245:14 314:1 243:17 253:15 254:10 233:12 245:9,12 **Mahwah** 236:7 manufacturer 33:3 35:1 255:21 256:11,16,18 267:3 280:4,20 300:6 main 63:20,20 147:5 35:3 122:8 132:2 257:15,20 262:21 losses 45:3 84:17 170:20 176:21 179:11 294:20 263:12 269:13 271:8 179:15 189:21 194:18 262:12 294:11 mainland 137:21 271:9,9,13 286:13 lost 14:19 44:9,10,12 maintain 36:10 37:4,13 210:1 211:2 219:20 289:18 295:12 299:7 51:20 84:12 100:5 258:20 42:7 100:3 102:17 299:10 308:12 313:10 111:2,6,8 203:17 145:18 187:20 193:3 manufacturers 2:13 313:19 230:22 256:3 5:11 13:16 17:19 market-driven 295:4 233:3 263:12 lot 52:8 56:2 60:7 maintaining 254:13 30:14 37:8 58:6 62:5 marketed 161:2 238:6 maintains 16:10 68:6,9,17 69:1,3 80:4 marketing 33:15 131:21 152:13 165:14,18 maintenance 143:3 217:8 265:11 268:18 92:11 98:8 101:6 161:4 253:7

П			
marketplace 112:1	McCARTIN 1:18 11:17	303:8 320:6	Milan 116:20
131:4 140:4,22	11:18 48:14,16,20	membership 214:16	mildly 299:6
177:14 185:6 208:5	49:12 50:11 65:15,16	270:18	miles 71:20 111:4 201:5
212:21 213:10,14	101:15,20,20 102:2	mention 309:10 317:22	military 17:12 26:19
226:10	103:2 104:10 110:9	318:2	27:2,14 29:15 87:12
markets 40:19 77:4	McGAHN 2:21 4:9 43:2	mentioned 20:5 52:5	188:22 189:14
88:5 121:2 124:19,20	43:4,5 48:11 55:19,22	61:11 73:11 103:3	mill 74:1,4,8,12 75:15
128:16 148:21 150:3	McKinley 267:5	107:4 110:11 135:4	81:22 86:10,12,18
160:17 169:9 197:1	mean 55:7 156:17	153:8 156:4 160:8	87:1 89:4,5,10,18
225:3 232:18,22	220:17 263:13 271:7	217:13 301:7 307:5	90:3 92:4,21 93:22
243:18 245:6 247:15	277:5,15 294:13	319:18	110:18 112:6,10,20
253:13 254:3 256:22	311:17	mentions 157:12	113:2 191:22
	•	mercantilist 231:9	milled 75:8
268:12 271:7 295:18	meaning 134:9	234:7	
Mary 2:9 4:16 114:12	meaningful 151:16		million 14:19 22:13
114:14 Manyland 71:22	201:13	Merchandising 131:20	26:21 36:21 80:2 83:6
Maryland 71:22	means 32:1 64:5 78:7	merchants 219:19	84:14 91:13 93:7
mass 154:3 174:9	196:22 294:10 297:15	merely 171:4	94:11 99:21 111:8
176:22 183:2 212:6	305:19 317:13 319:14	message 42:15	115:5,6,8 116:7
Massachusetts 44:4	320:1	met 1:9	121:16 127:3 140:11
massive 89:12,16	meant 277:17	metals 150:20	142:9 155:8,9 179:10
134:12 221:18,19	measure 279:7 285:8	method 290:6 320:8	179:22 195:18 204:8 205:18 206:18 218:16
237:19 260:14	319:3 measures 171:10 266:4	methodology 293:9 methods 32:1 320:3	
match 111:21 255:19 313:21			240:21 253:18 256:13
material 27:5 67:18	276:16 278:21 285:5 287:3,6 299:9	Mexican 184:6 210:14	257:13,14,14 284:6
	,	Mexico 54:8 155:19	286:6 294:4 297:16
73:18 74:13 78:16 97:15 102:16 106:6	mechanism 47:8 197:13 302:20 304:7	156:2 183:19,21,22 184:1 185:9 186:11	millions 32:5 124:18
			125:11 142:12 169:21
106:10 109:18 123:21	319:16 320:7 mechanisms 273:14	186:14,18,22 187:6	195:8 196:15 232:9 233:21 242:5 290:17
162:10 181:9,11		188:4,4 206:18	
201:18 204:14 205:1	medical 263:18 268:19	241:16 253:13	300:20
207:17,18 214:19	medium-sized 238:3	Mey 2:12 4:12 75:21,22 76:1,2 80:16	mills 73:7 78:4 92:13 178:20 192:2
materially 78:17 180:6 192:12	239:21 245:4 270:13	MGM 71:21	
materials 24:13 28:18	270:17 271:3 meet 88:2 91:21 93:8	mic 48:18 53:19 61:3	mind 120:6 313:4 mindful 12:17 51:2
38:19 84:16 97:11,18	93:10 104:20 107:10	64:21 90:20 104:14	mine 190:5 238:3
126:21 146:12 149:19	109:11 173:15 189:13	157:7 209:17	239:22
150:18 180:11 200:20	210:3 211:7 214:4,21	Michael 3:11 5:5 199:12	mined 147:11
208:8 232:15 244:22	218:20	Michelle 2:17 252:7,11	minerals 146:14 147:10
300:13 318:3	meeting 167:1	Michigan 114:17 115:3	minimal 26:13 92:2
Matt 66:2	melt 237:5	116:21 117:20 119:16	128:8 129:9 193:4
matter 19:20 62:6 63:6	member 11:6 91:5	156:5	minimizing 224:11
90:11 98:2 103:14	126:18 127:8 154:22	Michigan- 118:17	minimum 150:9
114:2 119:6 123:6	252:15 265:20 270:21	microchips 26:4 28:3	mining 146:11 147:8
161:15 167:11 210:10	278:15 283:4 284:3	microphone 98:13	149:2 151:13 163:12
222:15 278:20 282:19	294:5 298:17	188:14	Minister 317:4
303:3 306:7 313:22	members 18:21,22 19:4	microscopic 196:4	Minnesota 132:1 297:5
320:17	23:20 24:4,7 34:4	Microsoft 59:12	minute 62:18 167:8
matters 19:6 183:18	47:15 63:1,16 70:16	mid 216:12	minutes 9:8 13:2 18:14
204:15	114:6 127:5,15 128:9	mid-day 8:18 9:6	23:11 30:6 34:2 39:16
Matthew 2:4 4:11 63:12	129:5,17 131:9 138:6	mid-end 176:3,6	43:4 62:21 63:13,22
65:22	146:7 152:4 154:20	mid-sized 34:12	64:3,4 66:1 70:15
mature 139:10	167:20,21 171:18	middle 72:19 242:4	75:22 80:19 85:20
Maureen 1:16,20 12:2,5	188:12,18 194:11	Midwest 115:15	90:16 95:14 114:13
50:12 54:15 65:4	199:16 222:19 232:4	migration 215:18	120:13 126:11 131:16
109:8 159:14 168:10	232:17 233:9,15	mike 2:7,22 4:18 5:2	136:21 142:1 146:5
213:21 223:10 279:21	246:11 253:1 270:21	131:14,19 168:17	167:10 168:19 174:1
283:12	271:3,13 278:20	169:2 199:19 270:15	178:5 182:18 188:10
maximum 44:15	283:3 302:5,20,22	306:22	194:9 199:14 205:10
II			

223:17 228:16,20 234:18 235:12 240:14 246:10 252:9 258:14 265:1 283:18 288:1 292:4 298:11 301:22 misconception 124:4 misconduct 148:4 missed 256:4 missiles 27:2 mission 200:5 205:5 Mississippi 76:17 Missouri 81:14 mistake 117:16 118:1 249:10 mistreatment 242:15 Mitch 1:18 283:11,11 Mitchell 1:19 11:20,21 51:15,15 168:7,7 210:20,20 mitigation 36:17 **Mobile** 259:6 260:22 model 130:2 148:7 191:17 modeling 35:14,14 74:22 **models** 122:7,13,17 154:3,5 286:4 312:17 modern 137:11 243:12 modernization 84:20 110:13 modification 36:16 modifications 56:12 164:19 **modify** 128:10 modular 261:17 modularization 262:2 **modules** 13:12,16 16:2 17:4 18:6 48:22 49:4 49:9,13 261:14 262:3 264:4 **Mohan** 2:22 4:18 131:14,16,17,19 136:18 154:13,19 moment 41:18 243:7 money 26:13 44:3 55:7 118:3 Monitoring 12:12 **monitors** 285:16 monopolize 17:22 Montana 203:18 252:12 252:13 257:15 month 27:12 55:8 57:12 110:8 236:5 months 57:7,8,10,14 105:11 128:8 150:9 210:11 211:14 235:21 253:21 moral 250:6

morning 6:3 11:11,14 11:17,20 12:2,5,8 13:4 23:15 30:7 34:3 56:10 63:18 320:16 most-favored-nation 273:21 288:16 mother 118:19 motivated 289:17 motivation 55:4 136:7 motor 3:7 4:20 117:6 126:20 136:20 137:3 137:12 138:11 139:21 141:18 162:7 163:6 motors 138:2,5 140:14 141:2,6 162:13 163:9 163:13 164:16 206:18 Mou 3:4 298:10 Mount 263:5 280:11,12 move 20:6 52:10 98:12 108:10 119:5 123:4 150:12 185:8 206:3 222:7 244:8 245:22 269:14 272:14 273:7 moved 96:15 221:22 269:12 274:22 movement 273:6 275:15 moving 180:4 184:5 188:3 206:8 209:3 221:14 232:15 263:13 274:17 MRO 213:11 multi- 22:12 multi-billion 123:19 261:19 multi-decade 262:8 multilateral 11:16 23:4 65:19 226:17 265:21 269:20 290:21 MultiMaddock 158:14 multinationals 59:22 multiple 44:15 77:22 79:20 154:5 159:22 212:21 213:19

N

mutually 291:9

myriad 31:9

NAFTA 73:22 74:10 183:19 187:7 nail 66:6 67:2,11 68:5 68:12,22 69:13 106:22 113:13 nails 66:10,20,22 67:7 68:1,10,17 70:1,7 107:5 NAM 240:16 243:6,8

name 11:11,17 18:15

23:13,19 34:4 50:12 65:15 70:17 76:1 80:20 85:21 90:17 91:1 95:20 114:14 120:15 126:12 137:2 137:8 142:2 144:4 146:8 167:16 169:2 178:7 188:19 194:13 199:19 205:13 222:21 246:12 252:10 302:6 **Nancy** 41:8 **NASDA** 223:19,22 224:13 226:13,16 227:2,12,16 Nathan 2:6 5:8 223:15 **nation** 71:11,16 76:21 91:20 nation's 73:2 74:17 89:5 91:21 93:15 193:8 **national** 2:6,12 5:8,10 24:9,19 25:1 26:15 28:7,9,17 29:2 52:5 71:22 138:8,10 186:4 201:15,20 202:11,21 205:6 223:15 240:13 240:15 252:14 273:21 282:6 291:17 308:5 nationalism 41:21 Nationals 71:19 **nations** 248:9 natural 67:21 206:10 319:8.16 nature 20:17,19 21:6 37:6 237:22 251:10 **Navy** 170:4 near 89:12 100:17 134:8 155:3 183:6 **nearby** 25:19 nearly 44:8 45:16 73:14 91:14 93:7 94:8 125:2 125:7 126:18 182:20 195:18 198:3 201:3

298:17

Nebraska 297:5
necessary 46:19 57:8
184:16 200:3
necessity 237:3
need 40:16 41:19 42:16
60:22 70:9 73:8,9
74:14 80:12 102:17
102:18 103:20 108:21
108:22 110:4 166:11
188:13 198:20 209:16
226:14,22 238:11,16
242:6 274:19 295:4,5
295:6 317:2,6

229:13 245:13 253:16

needed 36:14 74:1 108:16 152:4 192:22 279:7 **needs** 36:2,3 61:13,19 61:21 76:22 89:22 111:16 118:9 125:11 189:10 316:20 negating 218:8 negative 124:15 125:5 130:10 136:13 145:14 176:10 186:7 227:14 258:1 259:15 264:1 297:22 negatively 61:18 78:10 neglectable 181:22 negotiate 226:21 234:9 272:6 308:8,17 negotiated 298:2 negotiating 226:17 272:11 273:16 negotiation 46:19 56:3 57:8 248:1 273:18 287:9 negotiations 29:3 119:17 224:8 227:13 234:6 243:1 248:3 272:12 273:13 Neither 231:7 **NEMA** 158:9 162:13 net 125:5 **Netflix** 142:13 networks 27:22 87:6 88:21 neutral 243:19 274:13 274:17 never 45:2 104:3 198:4 221:16 **new** 3:11 5:5 11:6 25:12 35:22 36:12 52:4 53:13,13 56:20 57:16 57:18 63:15 71:10,10 71:13 72:4,5 78:14 81:22 84:13 97:14 105:7 106:12 128:10 128:11 134:12 135:8 144:13 147:13,17,20 148:3 150:10,11 151:9 167:20 169:20 174:14,18 189:8 192:8 199:12 222:19 222:19 224:7 236:4,4 236:5,7 237:18 238:21 242:5 243:16 244:9 255:7 260:14 261:9,15 264:5,7 276:16 277:11 278:3 278:5 283:3 292:15

295:6 299:9

201:9 233:18 Newcastle 199:21.21 112:2 153:1 207:9 90:9 95:19 114:19 **niche** 68:19 263:3 oldest 240:17 131:10 132:7 137:1 Nicole 1:17 168:1 numerous 16:10 oligarchs 150:5 142:5 169:1 171:16 218:11 178:21 205:21 264:14 omits 86:21 90:2 182:22 187:14 189:2 **Nikola** 137:9 290:12 318:16 omitted 138:19 194:15 205:3 223:19 nipples 96:2 97:12,21 nuts 253:9 on-site 280:14 228:11,18 234:11 98:14 99:2,13,16 **nutshell** 143:21 235:3 240:8 245:17 **on-time** 76:20 100:21 once 25:6 57:10,12,13 251:8 258:16 283:22 0 noise 59:3 292:6 298:13 302:10 137:5 181:13 193:9 **O'Byrne** 1:19 11:11,12 230:12 246:2 non 232:19 **oppose** 285:4 **non-** 42:12 198:22 55:18 56:9 223:1,1 onerous 292:20 **opposes** 288:7 ones 62:10,12 207:14 275:13 270:12,16 271:20 **optics** 174:7 non-China 140:8 217:10 272:16 optimistic 45:7 253:22 obligated 302:13 ongoing 243:1 non-Chinese 16:17 **obligation** 291:16 319:4 options 130:6 238:16 79:21 173:13 266:6 obligations 247:5 open 81:17 94:22 238:22 255:11 non-material 182:1 248:16 250:17 287:7 111:13 201:4 225:3 oral 9:8 64:1 101:11 non-privileged 39:10 288:12 303:13 247:15 299:8 307:15 302:11 **observed** 170:12 non-violation 305:4,18 308:11 oranges 255:3 obstruction 226:10 opened 170:1 212:1 ordeal 46:17 305:22 306:10 non-working 28:15 opening 4:2 40:19 order 23:1 30:22 56:18 obtain 121:20 231:13 nondiscrimination obviously 78:7 163:15 119:15 156:4 236:5 63:10 93:19 95:7 244:8 299:10 111:17,21 114:10 39:21 272:16,17 273:9 nonprofit 252:21 occasions 14:11 openings 241:21 167:15 185:1 203:17 **openness** 273:22 204:12 226:21 227:22 noon 63:5 occur 198:13 228:7 233:2 235:11 **normal** 183:13,15 occurs 17:17 opens 144:1 normally 64:9 185:13 operate 15:12 24:4 272:5 283:1 314:5 ocean 204:16 North 2:18 4:17 18:22 October 6:17 311:14 26:11 44:20 96:2 orders 67:13 68:15 92:5 32:17 35:5 120:12,16 312:1 315:11 138:3 174:17 259:1 193:11 257:9 275:18 169:14 170:9 260:19 operated 113:6 258:21 275:19 **OEM** 36:8 279:9 off-the-shelf 139:5 280:5 ordinary 238:8 267:18 Northwest 256:19 offer 42:13 96:21 operating 28:5 90:18 290:16 **Notably 133:11** 123:13 125:10 142:18 91:2 100:16 120:17 ores 147:10 **note** 16:19 50:6 68:12 171:9 255:4 143:17,20 144:18 organization 9:7 24:2 123:2 145:3 179:21 offered 122:2 159:16 203:6 216:18 40:3 59:16 60:1,2 63:22 130:17 251:18 257:4 295:13 offering 78:5 262:8 **noted** 37:17 75:2 83:18 offerings 127:8 **operation** 82:6 129:3 252:21 198:16 253:20 262:15 140:10 161:9 164:22 office 3:15 5:16 6:4 organized 148:17 **notes** 27:4 11:12,15,21 12:3,9 256:2 oriented 196:5,6 notice 6:14 7:20 8:7 64:20 65:2,9,13,20 operations 2:7 5:2 origin 73:19 79:6 10:5 147:2 149:22 95:15 141:12 152:1 14:14 15:18 84:11 185:13 221:12 222:4 231:12 154:12 167:18 168:6 96:15 127:5 128:17 original 303:8 150:1,12 160:19 noticed 301:1 179:2 254:12 292:3 originally 170:1 notification 305:22 316:10 168:18 169:4,9,19 originate 121:16 219:1 notion 123:3 124:4 officer 70:19 90:19 91:2 173:11 174:13 190:10 originated 26:1 **NS** 111:5 95:21 131:21 170:3 201:10 231:22 232:16 originating 138:14 **Nucor** 76:4 199:20 260:2 264:17 271:16 Orlando 72:1 **Orleans** 84:13 number 10:6 67:11 offices 292:9 294:5 119:13 121:1 123:13 officials 87:12 276:15 opinion 54:19 212:7 ought 246:22 127:15 128:3 129:6 offloading 204:17 278:16 284:7 291:12 outbound 316:6 317:9 291:20 302:12 318:22 317:11 129:18,22 130:1 offs 208:21 137:17 138:16,22 319:20 320:2,5 **outcomes** 301:17 offset 238:17 139:9 140:5 175:8 offsets 52:6 opportunities 41:14 outdoor 235:20 232:6 233:9 242:1 offshore 53:7 69:22 121:6 226:18 228:9 outer 116:14 outline 132:17 260:1,3 255:11 273:5 286:16 241:4,12 268:11 96:16 201:9 outlined 136:3 286:19 299:15 319:13 **Ohio** 76:18 188:20 **opportunity** 9:18 10:14 **numbers** 75:11 76:11 220:10 297:6 13:8 23:21 31:20 43:6 output 240:22 286:22 76:13 81:9 83:5 86:18 oil 112:13 146:11 147:7 46:11 47:6 48:9 64:12 outrageous 204:20 101:12 108:14 110:19 149:2 151:13 200:4 75:18 76:5 80:22 86:2 outset 249:19

outside 59:3 98:14 151:21 154:16.22 22:20 25:4.12.21 115:9 118:21 127:4 152:5 159:17 162:4 166:17,19,22 167:3,5 26:22 27:6 36:14 149:7 158:11 161:4 161:10 169:16 174:14 165:5 166:5,6 184:5 167:9 168:17 205:8 37:11 38:16,17 42:6 209:10 212:16 222:12 199:7 236:3 267:13 216:14 237:14 241:15 56:22 58:1 61:7,11,14 249:5 262:7 268:7 222:13 223:15 264:21 61:16 62:6 111:6 294:3 301:12 277:4,20 279:12 270:9 282:14 283:17 116:1,5 117:12 **PERC** 17:15 outsource 74:12 287:21 301:20 306:17 126:21 128:3,11 percentage 84:19 156:1 outsourced 21:2 313:16 320:11,12 129:1 130:1,3 139:22 164:1,9,10 251:22 outsourcing 52:7 panels 8:19 9:2,3,5 139:22 140:1 143:1 perfect 116:13 252:2 ovens 286:18 17:12 134:7,11 146:22 147:3,5,6,14 **perform** 126:22 overall 22:12 57:17 135:13 167:2 183:16 148:15,19 151:3,3,7 performance 273:18 129:15 130:12 202:1 184:13,15,18 187:21 152:13,14 153:9,12 performed 24:8 204:5 232:8 271:15 period 83:10 96:12 225:11 153:12,14 154:5 286:2 paragraph 304:16 157:16 158:15 162:4 106:12 114:20 215:5 overdue 20:5 47:21 163:6,12,15 164:15 234:13 305:6,7 overseas 28:10 51:19 parameters 138:18 165:4,18 166:7,10 periods 258:2 69:5 88:11 104:2 paramount 123:2 171:22 172:9,22 perishable 275:16 116:16 117:11 162:16 202:22 184:1 213:12 215:17 permanently 77:19 162:17 164:20 245:10 parent 137:13 Party 41:17 permission 145:11 268:5 **park** 71:19 Party's 55:1 permit 304:18 overstates 25:13 parking 78:12 pass 37:8 51:4 117:8,9 pernicious 268:1 **overt** 21:13 part 13:20 21:8 22:11 128:12 215:20 294:12 persist 238:22 overwhelming 48:2 28:20 30:18,19 57:14 passed 300:19 person 64:10 57:18 61:17,19 62:8 **passing** 312:18 personal 42:6 170:18 134:6 62:14 87:20 119:13 owe 82:7 patent 124:12 255:4 Owen 2:16 4:5 18:11.16 129:22 133:9 144:9 patents 31:22 142:7 personally 25:15 owned 35:2 76:3 122:2 144:10 148:14 151:10 197:11 perspective 50:16 133:18 137:5 141:9 152:13 154:3 201:1 path 56:5 190:11 175:2 207:22 207:8 213:11 243:2 perspectives 101:17 243:10 owners 74:12 248:6 262:18 pathway 234:4 persuading 147:20 ownership 289:9 307:9 partial 68:22 Patrick 2:15 3:7 4:6,19 persuasively 250:10 307:13 participants 141:4 23:9.13 136:19 137:2 pervasive 26:19 participate 114:19 141:17 perverse 74:11 Ρ patterns 166:1 274:17 213:9 294:6 **petition** 14:8 202:13 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S participated 43:15 Paul 2:11 5:3 178:3,7 petro 277:21 petrochemical 258:19 participating 8:15 13:5 pay 106:5 113:17 **p.m** 63:8 114:3,4 particular 58:22 59:8 143:20 150:16,22 258:20 261:15 167:12,13 222:16,17 82:13 102:7 161:8 154:7 196:22 267:21 **Pettis** 1:20 12:5,6 54:16 282:20,21 320:18 166:7 178:18 181:9 268:9 285:18 286:6 55:11,17 65:4,5 109:7 **Pacific 256:19** 218:6 254:9.14 297:13,15 109:8 159:12,14 packaged 142:17 261:11 266:7 269:19 payer 297:7 160:6,12 168:10,10 313:22 314:9,11 paying 201:8 242:8 213:21,21 223:10,10 Packard 2:10 5:11 246:8,9,11,12 252:6 particularly 74:15 payments 36:22 279:21,21 283:12,12 217:10 245:3 261:20 278:14 279:1 pays 184:3 phase 137:11 263:2 275:16 **PBS** 142:13 philosophy 81:18 packet 41:6 42:2 55:8 parties 197:20 290:13 **PC** 285:15 **phones** 24:15 page 198:6 302:2 pages 316:2 296:19 311:22 peace 203:8 246:18 photography 12:19 partner 40:4,7 59:11 Pelosi 41:8 physical 269:15 paid 118:3 pain 267:2 268:7 81:13 127:20 292:7 penalize 16:21 17:20 picked 269:12 partners 116:17 121:9 penalties 60:10 picture 72:3 panel 4:3,10,15 5:1,7 124:10 141:7 142:13 penalty 190:14 191:11 **piece** 82:1,2 103:22 5:13 9:16 12:22 43:2 48:13 62:19,22 63:1 213:19 227:21 247:21 222:6 164:6 222:3 247:22 248:9 251:7 pending 256:10 pieces 164:15 63:10,11 65:22 95:12 295:3 299:1,3 Pennsylvania 76:18 piles 25:21 78:14 108:8 101:9 113:21,22 partnership 118:16 91:3 96:4 **piling** 76:9 77:10 78:9 114:5,6,11 123:19 132:2,9,20 133:2,4,11 125:8 Pentair 219:8 78:18,18 79:9 80:1 people 34:14 38:9 55:6 81:8 83:2,8,13,14 133:20 134:3,4 parts 20:7,11,13,20

59:18 96:6 105:4,5

21:11,16 22:2,10,17

135:22 136:10 146:3

84:9 108:2 109:12

11
pillars 207:22
pioneered 36:5 142:8
pipe 76:10 77:20 78:5
78:18 79:9 80:1 81:8
81:22 82:2,3 83:3,8
83:14 84:9,15 85:3
96:1,1,8 98:13,15,18
98:20 99:2,12,13,16
99:16,17 102:4 108:3
108:8 109:13
pipes 77:12
pistachios 255:3
pit 19:17
pitting 23:4
Pittsburgh 2:4 4:11
63:12 65:22 66:4
PLA 87:13
place 15:9 20:6 49:3,10
68:15 93:8 103:4
133:15 135:17 152:15
155:13 201:2 215:14
216:22 218:9 221:18
222:6 272:7 275:10
277:6
placed 38:3 106:1
108:2 109:12 210:4,7
211:8 212:8 218:20
254:8 267:15
places 69:20 111:8
155:18 185:9 220:10
221:19 269:8
placing 22:5,16,19
plain 221:8
plan 28:16 40:14
119:10,16 202:1
228:20
planet 266:3
planned 84:20 110:12 236:9 262:6
-00.0 -00
planning 261:1 plans 16:13 79:17 80:9
84:1 110:14 115:10
119:22 123:10 259:4
296:10
plant 34:9 105:1 110:22
116:19,20 119:9,15
156:5 261:6,22
planting 258:6
plants 74:19 92:17
117:8 157:12 166:12
195:4 232:19 261:19
264:5
plastic 229:22 232:7
263:3
plastics 230:2 260:11
262:18,20 264:9
plate 3:11 5:6 98:20
106:10 113:17 199:13

199:21 204:9,11 205:2 **plates** 92:12 197:13 platform 28:1 144:14 144:16,22 169:21 play 85:12 playbook 42:16 played 82:11 players 142:4 158:10 170:7 playing 33:10 78:6 80:13 85:5 100:3 101:3 108:12 130:17 136:8 179:14 183:8 183:10 184:9 187:15 190:6 192:22 193:7 195:21 206:22 208:9 208:16,18 217:17 246:4 plead 292:11 please 9:14 10:22 12:17 48:19 53:20 63:2,9 64:10,22 90:21 101:18 104:15 114:1 114:9 118:10 157:8 167:4.5.14 188:14 209:17 222:14 270:15 270:18 282:22 287:17 297:19 307:1 313:6 pleased 11:2 47:14 79:4 234:8 302:10 **plenty** 109:3,4 **plug** 277:9 **plus** 165:16 **pocket** 277:20 point 58:7 96:22 152:22 154:7,9 161:8 165:11 181:1 204:18 212:12 217:1 248:2 266:19 269:16 279:17 297:16 315:5,18 pointed 250:14 **points** 145:13 176:8 228:21 265:13 policies 6:8,20 7:6 14:2 16:8,10 73:3 79:3,15 80:9 82:16 83:20,22 91:18 92:18 94:8 95:8 127:11 132:22 133:3 133:3,13,17 134:6 136:8 156:8,8 175:11 175:17 176:12 192:4 196:17 198:14 224:2 231:13 234:7 239:10 254:2 281:12,22 289:15 303:19 policy 15:13 84:3 118:6

236:16 239:8 246:13 246:20 278:17 281:11 281:22 299:8 308:11 317:14,21 **polished** 116:13 political 55:1 285:6 politically 296:14 **poly** 137:11 polycarbonate 263:2,5 263:19 280:10 **polymer** 232:17 **pool** 144:13 169:7 **pools** 124:2 popular 291:19 population 34:14 128:20 pork 253:10 255:3 276:8,9 port 77:5 108:8 257:8 **portion** 25:16 80:3 93:20 135:7 162:12 204:4 210:12 285:20 **portions** 197:21 ports 275:16 **pose** 24:22 poses 230:7 position 98:9 125:13 205:12 304:5,20 **positive** 50:5 301:17 **possess** 190:1 possible 10:9,20 38:20 42:20 51:11 163:19 265:15 273:8 315:17 possibly 209:2 post 189:20 190:15 191:7,14 193:17 194:3 211:12 post- 51:11 post-hearing 10:1,15 76:15 165:6 315:6 posted 8:21 10:18 posts 2:14 5:4 188:9,20 188:21 189:8,8,9,13 189:16 190:20 191:3 191:9 192:1,13 193:7 193:19,21 211:2 potable 206:4 potential 125:20 138:13 184:8 221:4,6 224:3 229:15 249:22 256:17 potentially 74:5 100:4 140:13 145:15 262:6 263:1 269:5 pound 207:18 powder 190:22 power 44:21 59:20 74:18 82:9 93:16

238:14 239:17 practicable 231:12 practical 219:14 practice 180:13 181:15 181:16 306:5 307:21 314:4 practices 6:9,20 7:7 14:2 15:19 18:3 46:21 49:20 71:2.2 73:4 79:4,7 80:15 81:4 82:17,20 83:16 88:20 90:8 95:9 132:17 147:21 176:12 182:4 189:19 190:13 193:15 202:2 203:2,4 231:14 239:5 243:17 246:21 246:22 247:12,19 249:4,4,6,17 251:13 254:6 279:6 281:22 303:19 305:10 pragmatic 234:6 pre-existing 39:7 precedent 251:8 precise 21:6 34:18 precision 35:8 predatory 203:4 predecessor 96:9 predetermined 284:8 predictable 130:21 predominance 155:11 predominantly 121:17 preferential 192:3 preferred 234:4 preliminary 171:20 225:14 prepared 29:20 316:2 preparing 298:22 prescribed 251:15 present 1:12 2:1,3 34:5 34:10 48:9 63:22 125:14 240:9 289:2 presentation 178:18 presented 217:5 293:14 presents 31:9 97:9 187:14 241:11 president 23:14 28:7 30:10 34:9 46:4,14 47:13,18 66:3 70:18 76:2 80:21 90:18 91:1 96:11 114:15 115:13 118:1,8 120:2,5,16 126:13 131:20 137:3 138:10 141:18 169:3 188:20 194:14 199:7 199:20 243:8,10 247:3,11 252:12 296:12 298:15 299:8 308:9

powered 237:9,17

120:7 133:6 134:16

II			-
President's 73:5 76:7	privately 141:9 207:21	78:20 79:20 83:13	117:14
241:3	privilege 146:9 265:20	84:14 113:10 146:12	programming 142:13
presiding 1:11	probably 103:11,16	158:7 185:7 186:1	programs 105:9 224:17
pressure 148:12 269:20	107:12 108:22 152:12	188:2 212:21 221:13	224:18
300:18	152:20 163:20 164:5	224:19 228:8 232:18	progress 144:6 284:11
	165:14	232:21 233:1	. •
presumption 294:20 presumptions 294:19	problem 24:20 27:10,16	produces 34:15 116:11	prohibit 17:11 19:9 32:22 243:17
314:17 315:3	31:5 56:17 139:16	producing 113:9 116:3	prohibition 251:4
pretty 105:11 208:9	171:16 185:1 270:3		prohibitive 129:19
11 -		129:8,17 134:17	•
266:12	309:22	product 55:2 75:11	154:6
prevent 28:4 186:1	problems 31:9 231:2	84:8 92:9 96:17,22	prohibits 251:1
188:1	234:5 244:3,11	97:2,4,6,17 98:1	project 36:2 74:12
previous 276:10 278:19	274:10 301:7	102:14,19 104:8	84:14 108:7 111:3
previously 19:12 37:11	procedural 8:13 63:19	106:8 108:3 113:9	204:5 255:22 256:3
207:10 262:15 297:6	procedure 288:22	127:7 139:10 143:3	projected 38:8 93:12
price 22:10,12 102:19	procedures 10:4,4	145:5 146:16 152:5	projects 72:7,20 73:10
104:3 106:10 111:19	proceed 12:15 266:17	158:7 164:14,20	74:19,21 77:4 78:4,13
113:17 130:4 145:13	proceeding 12:20	176:16 177:2,4,7	78:21 92:14,16 93:12
149:1,22 152:3,19	320:15	191:5,7 193:20	93:17 108:5,8 109:13
161:8 176:8 180:13	proceedings 43:16	197:16 204:2 206:2	111:9 140:17 147:8
181:5,16 187:9,13	process 15:5 28:18	211:20 214:17 215:2	148:18 261:1 262:6
193:1 204:7,9 215:19	29:8 32:2 116:11	217:15,16,18 218:6	299:3 316:19
216:7 255:9,19	123:18 134:18 148:15	219:15 220:5 222:2	prolonged 263:9
257:22 285:12 294:13	191:1 198:21 200:8	226:11 235:8,12	prominent 296:20
300:8 313:18	202:7 214:4,12	254:15 255:15 294:1	promised 40:13,14
priced 122:7 255:7	248:21 316:16 317:3	295:6 313:8,11,13,22	302:20
prices 67:6,17,18 68:5	319:2	314:5,10,11	promising 40:6
68:6 102:19 111:21	processes 37:20	production 19:10,16,18	promote 88:1,3 133:7
122:17 135:10 141:3	233:18 289:11 303:4	20:5 21:18 36:7 38:11	236:16
152:18 181:2 192:6	305:14	52:11,12 56:18 76:16	promoting 28:8
192:18 200:19 204:9	processing 73:20 253:4	77:20 78:7 84:18	promotion 144:21
224:4 226:5 255:19	procure 97:11 278:10	91:19 95:10 99:12	224:17
257:8 258:2 267:18	procurement 17:9	150:12,19 151:13,14	prone 26:18
267:21 268:8 286:2	produce 19:4 43:22	152:7 158:17 169:17	proof 140:8 187:11
313:13,17,20,21	57:2 66:9 67:7 70:2	172:8,14 174:10	proper 320:3,8
pricing 78:5 111:15	77:10 89:14 112:11	176:11 181:6 184:5	property 6:10 11:22
170:15 180:12,22	113:8 116:1,13	184:16,17 185:2	14:3 24:16 26:7 31:1
193:4 203:4 207:20	117:12 119:13 133:19	186:2 191:21 192:20	31:6,12,14,20 32:11
212:10,12 220:1,3	147:11 153:12 155:7	195:3 198:14 201:10 211:13 230:10,15	33:5 43:11,21 44:18
pride 70:3 235:18	157:16,18 158:14 176:22 180:12 191:9	232:15 233:2 237:13	45:22 47:5 60:2 65:9
primarily 68:15 100:11 135:12 178:17 236:4	200:4 202:18 203:7		69:12,15,17 82:18 121:5 122:1 127:16
277:7		237:19,21 238:2	
primary 32:16 103:5	214:16 237:4 258:6 276:6 277:22	259:18 260:12 263:14 263:15,20 268:5	130:20 139:2 143:21 143:22 144:1 145:7
129:10 195:22 197:17	produced 22:18,21	269:10 277:2,5,6,19	148:1 151:5 196:13
221:10 229:17 238:7	54:2 74:1,4,8 82:1	320:1	196:19 197:8,15
279:15	92:13 112:15 118:14	productive 138:7	198:12 231:3 236:14
principal 91:9	152:6 153:13 154:4,5	Professor 302:6 318:15	239:13 242:15 246:21
principally 279:9	154:14 163:6 172:18	318:16	250:20 259:12 274:10
principles 289:19	178:19 180:14 181:3	profit 15:22 300:15	279:5 292:18 293:4,8
prior 22:21 39:8 41:3	181:17 183:13,22,22	314:7	298:4 299:12 303:21
83:7 119:14 137:17	256:18 268:3	profitability 77:17	proportion 307:13
255:14	producer 80:12 89:5	102:17	proportionately 227:8
priorities 88:8 236:17	98:2 106:21 176:22	profitable 258:6	proposal 86:7 117:19
prioritized 15:11	183:3 212:6 260:13	profited 44:17	158:1 267:16
priority 84:6 260:19	producers 14:20 22:1	profits 44:13 81:19	proposals 301:14
private 93:13 132:3	67:19 68:19,20 69:8,9	300:7	propose 227:9 280:2
204:21 295:8	70:5 72:19 75:13	program 47:11 87:21	proposes 304:1
II			

proposing 49:10 239:2 proposition 208:22 261:3 proprietary 14:17,22 15:4 20:18 43:22 143:17 145:9 prosperity 28:8 246:19 protect 18:1 24:9 30:22 31:20 32:10 45:22 47:5 60:4,7 66:17 94:3 115:21 131:7 140:5 145:6 195:17 195:17 protected 33:7 protecting 29:11 32:9 46:6 201:15 236:14 293:11 protection 1:15 12:10 32:19 46:3 65:3 66:19 66:22 70:4 77:9 106:19 130:20 157:5 157:10 168:13 209:15 209:19 218:7 223:13 233:10,14 259:11 283:15 299:12 310:15 protections 59:14 185:15 protects 73:7 protocol 250:12 251:1 251:6 prototype 35:14 proud 96:22 114:18 116:15 118:16,16 149:5 189:12 **prove** 315:12 provide 8:13 10:14 23:21 24:21 28:1 29:19 45:7 47:8 59:11 64:12 76:14 78:6 89:20 90:6 140:8 146:10 149:1,5 160:18 166:10 183:11 186:12 203:14 236:3 239:22 244:7,15 250:12 251:6 256:7 263:8 282:9 283:22 290:5 312:5 316:4,6 provided 8:3 15:15 43:17 259:22 311:16 312:2 316:8 319:7 provider 174:6 providers 268:19 provides 25:9 45:4 135:1 providing 11:5 43:5 191:15 provisional 8:21 **provisions** 185:4 188:1

289:3 319:11 **public** 1:5 6:7,15 8:1,4 11:8 20:18 25:2 27:15 64:16 74:19 93:17 114:19 228:21 268:22 291:12 307:14 publicly 21:16 253:20 **published** 6:14 7:10,20 286:14 Puerto 24:6 **pull** 48:18 53:19 61:3 90:20 104:14 282:9 306:22 **pump** 2:19 5:6 147:5 163:8,22 164:9 165:15 205:9,14 207:3 209:5,5 219:5 293:20 pumping 151:2 pumping-related 147:14 pumps 148:13,14 206:2 206:4,5,5,6,13 207:6 207:9,14 215:8 218:14,16 219:1 220:16.19.22 punishing 46:5 **punitive** 231:6 287:3 purchase 39:7 103:11 106:6 135:13 140:20 159:5 182:2 207:19 286:7 300:13 purchased 137:14 215:17 purchasers 312:18 313:12 purchases 195:7 257:16 purchasing 134:10 137:18 238:18 purification 233:8 purpose 7:22 136:13 185:10 186:3 291:18 318:6 purposes 184:2 185:17 291:2 pursuant 47:1 247:9 pursue 227:17 **pursued** 136:9 **pursuing** 303:16 pursuit 43:9 45:14 push-back 40:12 **pushed** 55:12 put 98:8 107:16 110:15 110:21 116:22 119:2

puts 180:13 181:16 208:8 putting 103:3 181:19 218:1,4 269:2 Q Qinq 3:5 310:22 qualified 124:2 148:21 203:3 **qualify** 150:10 quality 28:14 121:18 122:19 123:20 125:10 126:4 128:11 166:11 203:21 206:19 208:1 214:16 216:5 quantity 107:16 quarter 83:9 97:14 102:21 144:6 235:17 quarterly 42:20 question 42:10 48:15 48:16.20 50:14 51:5 51:16 53:17,21 55:18 56:10 102:2,9,12,22 104:9,12,18 105:21 106:20 107:1.21 109:7 110:10 112:9 112:22 147:16,19,19 148:1 152:2,10,22 153:7 154:13.19 155:17 157:11 158:3 159:12,21 160:14 161:21 163:2 165:2 209:20 210:21 212:4 213:3,8,22 215:6 216:8,21 217:4 218:12 221:3 234:13 237:16 249:16 270:11 271:1,21 275:1 276:21 278:14 279:1 279:22 280:8,16 281:2,7,18 282:12 306:19,21 307:3,12 308:22 309:7 310:15 310:22 311:2,3,5 312:11 313:5 314:2 314:14 318:15 319:5 319:18 questioning 22:14 questions 9:18,18,20 9:22 10:2,8,21 18:9 23:7 30:3 39:11 54:16 64:8,9 70:12 90:12 102:5 131:11 136:17 146:1 147:15 151:18 157:5 166:17 178:1 188:6 199:10 209:13 240:10 265:15 306:14

290:17 296:21

311:14 quick 59:17 162:6 215:4 220:14 276:12 281:8 309:1 quickly 20:6 122:20 123:5 150:13 220:13 272:14,21 273:4,7 274:22 278:4 **auiet** 53:2 quite 31:10 52:6 59:2 163:16 166:8 185:12 208:5 quote 45:11 125:4 250:15,17 296:14 quoted 204:7 **QVC** 235:11

R **R** 2:10 5:11 246:8,13 **R&D** 236:2 **Rachel** 1:20 65:8 104:11.16 223:6 283:9 307:2 **Racine** 195:4 radios 267:20 rail 111:5 **railway** 318:3 raise 68:6 243:15 259:20 312:13 313:20 raised 29:5 244:6 raising 135:9 255:5 290:13 ramifications 224:3 ramp 104:19 105:3 107:14 109:11 210:3 210:10 211:7,13 214:3 215:4 218:19 rampant 196:19 ranchers 252:22 254:17 range 11:3 77:5 242:10 272:2 273:8 291:8 ranging 77:12 rapidly 105:11 235:15 rarely 299:2 rate 38:13 93:6 111:5 129:5 161:20 177:5,7 177:11 183:13,15 217:16 218:5 220:18

220:21 227:3

ratified 248:17

rates 153:17 269:1

raw 67:18 84:16 97:11

146:12 150:18 180:11

97:15,18 102:16

106:6,10 123:20

180:21 181:9,11

205:1 207:17,18

re-evaluation 138:11

133:1 164:18 165:19

266:1,5 267:18 275:9

177:1 222:5 246:3

reach 122:20 284:8 315:17 reached 215:11 reaching 291:9 299:10 react 96:18 173:12 177:21 220:12 reaction 220:7 read 175:7 305:5 ready 168:15 214:16 215:5 227:13 real 59:17 95:8 187:11 227:7 228:22 232:4 256:7 264:3 272:13 realign 139:17 realistic 40:20 reality 46:12 69:8 realize 106:21 realized 237:21 reason 21:8 73:11 110:4 145:4 186:21 192:12 218:8 266:21 267:12 279:15 reasons 88:12 89:7 99:15 132:18 138:15 240:2 260:4 276:14 289:18 302:18 309:12 315:18 reassess 251:12 rebuilding 72:1 rebuilt 71:16 rebuttal 8:7 58:14 64:13 105:14 107:17 163:21 recall 10:13 64:11 311:13 receive 8:1 141:2 received 8:6 208:5 216:5 receiving 247:8 recess 167:9 reciprocal 196:21 199:1 236:13 296:5 reciprocity 39:21 recognition 125:16 230:5 262:18 recognize 60:9,11 253:1 recognizes 236:12 recommend 42:18 recommendation 8:9 274:19 recommendations 50:19 recommends 227:2 reconsider 231:20 292:20 301:13 reconvene 272:12 record 31:18 63:7 114:3 121:6 167:12 189:4

222:16,19,21 223:21 240:22 252:2 282:20 312:9 314:12 320:18 record-finding 317:3 recording 10:16 12:20 recoup 58:9 recourse 288:21 recovered 71:15 recreation 42:5 recycling 23:22 24:8 28:13 red 9:13 64:5 redefine 266:13 redirection 233:12 reduce 227:22 233:1 254:2 261:17 reduced 111:20 197:5 210:9 268:9 reducing 122:18 245:17 269:3 reduction 38:8,9 122:12 140:16,17 300:7 reductions 37:15 reevaluate 292:12 reference 304:17 306:2 referenced 173:4 280:18 referring 311:11 **refine** 200:4 **refined** 175:13 refinery 203:18 refining 200:10 201:10 233:18 reflect 86:19 172:3 reflecting 241:21 reform 241:5 316:22 refrigeration 169:8 regain 100:4 regard 10:12 110:14 312:3 regarding 8:1 43:18 87:18 132:15 162:13 316:6.14 regardless 17:16 regards 60:13 regime 199:1 249:21 250:20 region 139:11 259:3 260:20 regional 227:21 regions 263:15 Register 7:20 8:7 10:5 10:19 61:12 175:8

regularly 244:16 regulated 305:4,18 **regulation** 36:1 241:6 307:16,17,18 regulations 106:16 175:19 177:10 192:5 266:4 314:20 regulatory 126:14 224:17 Rein 2:8 4:4 13:1.6 reintroduce 64:15 reinvested 198:9 reiterate 198:22 relate 229:20 305:11 306:5 related 6:9 19:19 20:1 21:17 24:18 29:5 39:4 91:18 94:19 131:22 147:15 200:5,9 203:9 231:18 254:21 286:9 287:2 303:3,20 308:19 314:11 relates 103:21 187:2 relation 203:1 303:15 relations 284:20 relationship 40:8 203:20 243:14 246:15 246:16 266:13 relationships 39:20 253:12 relatively 277:11 278:3 relax 308:11 release 166:19 222:12 released 186:6 301:2,3 relevant 74:15 76:11 83:5 183:21 reliability 27:18 reliably 26:11 reliance 19:15 133:9 relied 247:18 relief 86:19 89:20 90:6 208:20 227:10 244:15 relies 186:9 religious 142:19 relocate 150:11 relocated 161:16 reluctant 279:3,4 rely 29:14 88:2 238:15 239:19 253:12 263:7 286:10 remain 21:5 39:10 173:1 192:21 203:5 243:2 245:5,10 313:12 remainder 167:1 172:21 remaining 13:15 52:17 178:10 194:18 209:22

211:2 212:6 218:14 remains 27:11 53:4 remarks 23:21 232:2 remediation 77:7 78:11 108:19 remedies 49:20 50:8 89:9 247:9 249:22 266:18 remedy 17:18 88:19 185:17 221:6 242:21 293:13 remind 12:17,18 reminds 282:4 removal 234:22 239:22 remove 132:9 154:17 231:19 removed 39:5 136:11 146:22 165:7 **removing** 175:13 remuneration 56:4 Ren 3:5 310:22 311:1 311:12 315:19,21,22 render 45:19 rendered 269:13 renegotiate 269:14 renewable 16:11 17:22 renewal 119:7 rent 181:13 repackaged 116:20 repair 138:4,5 151:14 repairing 130:7 repairs 127:1 129:4 repatriate 206:18 repeat 63:19 281:17 repercussions 264:1 **replace** 152:9 replacing 133:9 report 7:9,9 14:6 15:17 21:10 27:11 79:2 82:15 113:5 129:5,17 132:15 133:1,5 136:3 145:7 165:10 198:16 247:1 250:21 266:1 281:13 282:1 284:7 284:10,16,20 285:4 285:21 287:4 293:2,8 294:17,18,18 295:7 298:20 301:7 303:18 314:16,22 315:1 316:9,17 317:10 reporter 64:17 101:19 reporting 86:18 reports 73:16 113:4 232:6 276:18 represent 66:4 73:14 94:20 100:13 126:18 135:6 205:14,16 285:19

231:11

regs 305:11

registering 198:5

registration 198:2

representative 1:1,13 291:19 296:2 56:3 87:16 145:12.13 rights 11:22 46:1,7 47:5 1:14,17,18 6:5,11 7:5 resort 304:13 305:14 161:14 196:14 201:7 65:9 130:20 139:2 7:11 8:10 11:19 28:22 resorting 302:22 260:14 236:14 248:8 293:11 65:17 86:16 87:3 resources 87:22 198:9 resulting 241:22 262:6 299:12 88:13 95:16 101:21 206:10 results 93:11 267:17 **rip-offs** 198:5 141:12 179:3 287:14 respect 14:2 19:11 290:16 306:4 rise 141:3 149:21 181:2 316:10 resumed 63:7 114:3 risk 27:15,22 31:4 40:16 46:17 47:5 Representative's 7:17 82:17 147:22 221:11 167:12 222:17 282:20 72:10 73:11 224:11 retail 135:9 186:4 89:2 168:6 239:13 254:16 257:3 262:12 290:17 representatives 8:15 276:7,16 282:4 187:12 219:13,14 risks 67:3 9:19,21 109:22 318:17 235:17 282:6 river 78:2 204:17 254:13 respected 35:4 retailer 131:21 314:11 rivet 66:6 67:2 68:22 Representatives' 147:2 respectfully 72:11 retailers 135:3 136:14 69:13 106:22 represented 91:13 86:15 120:20 125:17 193:9,12 220:2,4 rivets 66:10,20 67:1,7 representing 59:9 132:8 136:9 141:17 286:3 290:15 300:4 68:1,10,18 70:1,7 171:8 176:18 182:11 66:12 196:1 217:5 312:16 314:3,4 107:6 240:18 189:5 240:3 retails 219:16 road 84:5 118:20 130:2 represents 18:20 127:2 respects 254:4 retaliated 271:17,18 **Rob** 112:9 113:1 197:16 224:13 243:21 retaliation 53:5 227:7 responders 268:21 Robert 2:5,15,19 4:13 responding 10:8 252:21 288:5 227:12 229:1,18,19 4:13 5:3 80:17,21 Republican 114:18 response 7:13 8:6 249:12 254:22 256:9 85:18,22 173:21 10:12 47:20 56:13 257:11 259:14 262:15 Rock 137:4,7,16 139:19 reputation 121:8 request 10:7 13:11 17:2 225:16 226:3 227:1 264:13 275:4 162:11 164:17 18:5 21:9 76:8,13 282:3 301:4 310:13 retaliatory 128:18 rocks 147:11 318:14 320:10 229:3 230:8 232:20 rod 67:6,17,22 91:8 120:20 136:10 138:11 141:15 173:1 **responses** 10:2.14 256:21 257:1.19 Rogers 3:7 4:19 136:19 176:18 182:11 189:5 64:11 263:11 305:1 319:10 136:20,22 137:2 194:5 195:11 227:1 responsibility 310:7 rethinking 209:2 141:17,20 161:21 292:19 responsible 88:10 retired 18:21 162:5 163:7,9 164:2,5 requested 171:15 304:8 195:9 224:16 retrofit 43:22 164:13 requesting 125:17 rest 27:7 78:22 return 122:22 **roque** 250:7 154:17 178:11 179:1 restitution 43:13 45:8 revenue 14:20 116:8 **Roku** 3:10 4:21 141:22 requests 39:3,7 72:12 45:12 46:12 47:8 48:3 140:10 144:12,21,22 142:3,4,7,14 143:6,11 196:15 253:11 287:13 86:16 132:8 240:3 48:7 143:14,15,19,22 144:2,3,8,8,10,12,13 304:13 restrict 7:1 17:9,11 18:4 revenues 44:12 144:19 require 29:22 237:18 41:15 55:2 127:12 284:4 144:16,19 145:2,4,13 262:1 273:22 304:1 reverse 69:20 145:19 159:13,16,18 review 7:3 8:5 61:13 required 36:22 96:20 restricted 307:8 160:1 140:15 242:17 248:20 restriction 285:5 62:4 Roku's 144:14 145:17 272:1 307:10 308:16 reviews 42:21 roles 133:8 requirement 185:18 restrictions 17:5,14 revisit 40:7 roll 190:21 revolution 260:10 248:16 273:18 50:20 60:20 133:16 rolled 82:2 84:16 94:14 requirements 164:15 227:15 289:10 296:21 revolutionizing 145:18 110:8 180:21 190:21 189:14 221:9 307:22 308:4 309:4 reworked 214:20 193:18 reworking 215:2 requiring 28:12 129:4 restrictive 40:5 224:2 **rolling** 116:6 research 33:14 36:12 Rheem 2:7 5:2 168:17 room 1:10 63:9 114:9 restructures 243:13 123:21 233:15 result 15:13 37:15 47:4 169:4,6,15 170:4 118:13 167:14 282:22 resent 117:21 83:11 97:14,20 99:6 172:20 Rosman 2:5 5:3 Rheems' 170:21 reserved 114:7 122:11,15 134:14,16 rotors 163:15 reside 52:1 134:17 140:18 149:19 rhetoric 46:12,14 roughly 82:8 84:15 94:8 resins 229:22 150:3 177:18 184:4 **Rhode** 96:4 116:7 203:5 225:18 resolution 56:6 60:3 187:10 191:8 193:12 Rhodium 295:7 Round 137:4,7,16 196:4 207:6 209:1 rich 75:6 92:19 121:18 139:19 162:11 164:17 298:3 resolve 272:21 291:7 233:5 239:1,18 248:1,17,19 125:11 291:10 292:18 294:17 242:14 255:20 260:6 Round's 248:5 Richfield 132:1 301:16 319:8,14 262:20 275:6 296:16 **Rico** 24:6 rule 185:22 221:12 304:22 ridiculously 112:2 320:3,7 222:4 resolving 258:10 291:2 resulted 14:18 25:18 **rifles** 175:4 ruled 192:11 305:4,18

send 68:1 256:6 305:21 34:12,22 35:6 36:5,14 305:7 317:8 rules 10:4 75:14 78:6 36:20 38:12 39:3,6 second-generation sends 42:15 82:11 185:13 190:19 57:2 138:6 **Senior** 34:8 126:13 Sanden's 39:2 227:18 243:5,16 Secondly 85:8 131:19 250:14,16 259:10 **Sarah** 1:15 216:9 Secretaries 224:14 sense 57:20 69:6 111:1 278:18 287:4,5,7 saving 302:1 305:6 secrets 46:6 87:7,17 211:11 279:11 281:4 304:18 306:5 309:11 **savings** 122:13 311:20 **sensitive** 14:10 15:9 319:19 saw 25:15 sector 84:4 106:1 108:1 25:20 87:6,17 rules-249:13 saying 154:1 155:17 123:3 125:7 127:3 sent 116:20 224:22 rules-based 130:14 207:15 201:9 230:8 240:20 separate 87:16 159:7 265:21 265:7 266:10 276:6 162:7 259:22 says 125:3 175:7 222:5 ruling 45:4 247:8 **SBA** 270:11 309:15 separately 217:17 rulings 252:3 scale 155:21 204:3 sectors 84:6 88:6,7 separation 279:10 run 31:4 52:14 56:17 266:6 149:13,15 150:16 September 45:16 238:1 98:4 109:16 scared 117:22,22 118:2 151:11,12 230:21 311:13 running 81:18 93:5 118:5 239:11 255:2 260:8 series 20:12 299:9 107:12 109:14,15 schedule 8:21 10:7 264:15 288:6 307:9 serious 19:20 22:13 190:10 211:16 299:6 38:15 63:4 72:14 307:19,22 308:2,7,16 25:1 27:11 40:18 41:13 170:14 225:4 runs 134:18 155:7 94:18 95:6 132:10 308:18 309:3,5,11 rural 34:13 252:19 288:17 310:5 318:2 238:12 scheduled 8:17,20 9:2 253:20,21 securely 24:8 seriously 84:11 Russia 257:17 securing 241:5 56:2 **serve** 18:16 31:11,16 **Russian** 150:5,5 school 3:22 5:18 235:5 security 1:15 24:9,19 139:15 147:5 149:10 301:21 302:8 25:1 26:5,15 28:7,9 149:12 252:13 S 28:17 29:2 74:20 75:4 schooling 118:4 served 66:6 **SABIC** 3:9 5:12 258:14 **Schumacher** 3:21 4:7 138:10 189:14 201:15 servers 143:4 258:18 259:9 261:11 30:5.9.11 201:20 202:12.22 serves 71:12 88:7 Sciences 52:6 205:6 308:5 309:20 service 19:5 138:4 261:16 262:5,22 scofflaw 249:15 203:20 208:1 288:3 264:15 280:4 310:2,7 sacrificed 119:1 **scope** 6:13 171:17 **seeds** 258:5 **services** 25:9 26:16 **safe** 29:14 176:11 177:4,5 **seeing** 97:20 150:3 27:11 40:2 42:12 safeguard 49:6,19 184:12 202:13 217:20 211:15,22 254:18 60:21 84:9 126:22 280:19 217:22 218:3 249:5 276:6.9 131:22 146:10 265:7 safeguards 16:20 scopes 175:16,21 seek 48:4 75:15 117:10 269:10 safer 235:21 176:4,7,8 177:1,12 138:16 238:10 263:12 **serving** 25:14 96:10 safety 25:2 27:16 216:12.22 seeking 132:18 139:11 170:3 232:18 253:5 **Sage** 1:18 283:11 **Scotland** 146:20 239:4 **session** 240:10 **Scott** 2:19 5:6 205:8,13 seeks 265:10 **sake** 318:10 set 6:13 7:19 10:5 sale 97:5 191:10 197:22 scratch 237:19 seen 102:21 133:4 132:15 217:9 218:9 256:4 screen 154:14 187:2,5 149:20 207:16 211:21 231:2 236:16 251:8 **screens** 212:9 sales 14:19 38:11 115:5 215:20 260:10 266:22 310:3 115:6 144:12 161:13 scrutinies 308:4 273:13 277:12 313:17 setting 267:10 307:6 189:22 196:15 205:19 scrutinized 22:8 313:19 settle 287:10 235:17 245:12,18 se 249:8 sees 256:15 settlement 248:10,12 **Seaboard** 146:16 segment 155:13 278:3 248:21 249:18 250:18 **Salzman** 1:20 65:8,8 **seal** 117:5 252:4 274:13 288:18 104:11,11,16,16 **seize** 243:7 107:21 112:16 161:21 seals 76:22 select 289:22 288:22 302:15,19 163:3 223:6,6 275:1 seasonal 237:22 sell 15:21 57:2 97:1 303:4,16 304:7,14,16 283:9,9 306:20 307:2 seated 63:11 114:1 124:9 126:20 162:22 304:21 305:14 306:8 167:4,5,6 222:14 163:21 204:22 217:15 319:2 320:4,7,8 307:2 **Seattle** 78:12 241:14 277:16 seven 9:1 45:16 47:22 **sample** 42:12 sampled 276:9 second 6:15 20:22 selling 27:13 31:7 116:16 205:17 235:12 100:18 102:9,22 84:15 109:18 160:1 samples 98:11 severe 57:1 134:21 147:19 186:16 sells 121:3 160:17 severely 36:13 44:7 **Samsung** 159:19 160:8 217:3 224:21 229:17 semi 214:21 sanction 249:11 285:11 severity 130:9 **sanctions** 47:12 150:4 253:14 255:12 266:19 semi-annual 42:20 **Severson** 3:8 5:5 194:7 276:4 282:11 286:8 semiconductor 26:7,8 194:9,10,13 199:11 296:5 Sanden 3:16 4:8 34:1,6 289:5 294:16 302:2 **Senate** 26:16 213:3,7

II
sewage 206:6 207:3 shale 260:10 Shanghai 296:12 Shantou 25:19 shapes 92:12 share 72:7 73:17 75:18 100:4,5 111:11,12 124:21 144:19 183:4 207:4 257:20 262:21
263:13 290:2 291:8 310:18 311:9 318:8 sharing 81:19 101:17 232:3
Sharpe 23:14 25:15 51:5
Sharpe's 25:8 Shaw 158:14 sheet 76:9 77:10 78:9 78:14,18 79:8 80:1 81:7 83:2,8,13,14 84:9 108:2,8 110:18
sheets 273:1 shelves 219:13,14 Shenzhen 25:18 shift 99:11 100:18
129:14 152:7 172:8 185:20 300:18 shifted 165:17 shifting 186:1
shifts 67:16 221:7 ship 28:9 111:4 214:13 ship- 19:2 shipment 256:5
shipment 250.3 shipments 257:8 shipped 73:19 116:18 116:22 123:16 187:3 222:2 256:12
shipping 27:6 204:17 ships 293:22 shop 203:19 shoppers 285:17
297:13 shopping 122:8 shops 214:11 shore 165:18 shores 24:21 26:3
123:1 shoring 232:14 short 15:15 115:5 144:5 145:16 152:17 227:9
244:15 245:7 shortage 261:20 300:5 shovel 235:9 shovels 237:1 240:7 show 98:10 122:4
141:13 315:15 showcase 35:10 46:2,8 shown 139:5 274:12

	shows 28:12 124:22
	186:13 193:2 285:7
	310:6 shredder 197:13
	shrewd 113:15
	shut 77:20
	shutdown 300:16 side 32:12 161:1 295:13
	311:22
	sides 56:6 234:10 315:11
	sign 120:1
	signal 73:1
	signal-centering 244:3 significant 37:18 67:3,8
	68:17,18 77:16 99:3
	103:4 122:12 125:5
	127:2 134:3,16 135:8 137:8 144:18,20
	161:15 170:7 183:12
	187:9 215:9 232:13
	233:6 237:13 238:13 239:16 247:6 255:17
	257:21 259:15 262:12
	263:1 266:12 277:2,5
	290:1 significantly 36:19 37:3
	96:14 192:19 210:9
	264:6 275:18 284:12 285:9
	signs 226:10
	Silicon 295:19
	similar 46:17 97:6,10 138:19 210:21 211:10
	277:3 312:14 313:8
	similarly 256:22
	simple 73:11 simply 37:8 52:10
	78:19 96:16 104:2
	123:6 133:1 139:7,15 155:13 184:1 186:2
	187:10 188:2 208:11
	221:22 222:7 238:4
	267:1,17 simulate 35:17
	simultaneously 124:18
	single 130:2 246:16
5	Sinovel 43:20,21 44:1 45:5,10 55:21
	Sinovel's 44:6
	Sionvel's 44:18
	sir 54:5 220:14 309:2 318:13
	sit 33:10 72:18 114:7
	221:13 308:8 site 71:16 108:19 204:4
}	280:13
	sites 76:20 175:4 259:1

259:2 280:5,6,9 situation 54:20 104:4 193:16 199:6 situations 103:13 **six** 5:13 9:1 57:6,8,12 105:11 203:5 **sixteen** 203:12 **sizable** 86:22 90:3 **size** 155:13,20,21 161:17 sizeable 135:7 sizes 103:19 178:21 187:2,5 skeletons 220:10 **Skelton** 3:9 5:12 258:13 258:14,15 264:20 280:1,7 skeptically 247:21 **skill** 53:8 skill-based 52:13 skilled 72:9 149:6 151:6 261:21 **skills** 51:20 52:1 **skyline** 2:12 4:12 72:6 75:21 76:3,16 78:9,21 79:4 80:7,11 **Skyline's** 77:16 78:17 skyrocketed 97:6 slapped 269:7 **slide** 178:18 181:8,10 **slight** 22:12 slowed 275:17 **slower** 109:15 **slowing** 275:15 slurry 2:13 4:22 146:4 148:13 165:3,12 **small** 1:15,19 11:13 25:16 50:21 62:14 80:3 117:20 146:19 155:5 156:1 162:13 187:2,3 216:9,17 217:10 223:1 238:3 239:21 240:19 245:4 256:2 268:14,16 270:13,16 271:3 277:17,17 285:20 **smaller** 135:13 219:9 Smart 121:22 143:10 144:1.7 **smarter** 279:19 **SMEs** 231:16 **Smith** 3:10 4:21 141:21 142:1,2,3 146:2 159:13,21 160:7,13 169:22 **Smoot** 267:5 **SMT** 2:15 4:6 23:10,14 25:8 50:14

snow 2:11 5:10 234:16 234:21,22 235:4,6,9 235:10,14 236:12,22 236:22 237:7,9,17 238:6,10,12,13,14 239:8,9,12,17,22 240:2,6,6 277:16 278:11 so-316:4 societies 42:8 society 41:19,19 **software** 43:22 44:20 45:1 59:11 265:7 solar 13:12,16,22 14:9 15:21 16:1,12,20 17:1 17:3,6,11,15,19,20,22 18:6 48:22,22 49:4,4 49:8,8,13 225:11 SolarWorld 2:8 4:5 13:1 13:7,14,22 14:8,11,16 15:1,5,7,15 16:17 18:8 SolarWorld's 13:9,19 14:14 sold 25:12 69:18 78:14 97:22 121:15 134:7 141:6 144:3,8 145:14 161:3 179:7 187:12 217:17 235:8,12 238:1,7 285:14 297:11 sole 183:2 185:10 **solid** 35:14 315:16 **solution** 40:20 151:10 231:7 243:3 **solutions** 36:4 77:3,9 234:6 242:17 272:1,7 272:13 291:10 solutions-based 243:8 solutions-oriented 246:1 **solve** 244:2,10 270:2 301:7 solving 234:4 somebody 155:16 sons 82:7 soon 10:20 42:19 81:15 119:18 sophisticated 25:5 69:14 74:22 148:11 sophistication 25:11 sorghum 225:13,15 sorry 59:2 104:16 115:18 156:20 168:1 188:15 194:16 220:13 220:14 258:3 281:14 297:20 315:14 sort 31:11 277:14 278:5

_
278:7,9 279:18
281:11 311:22
sorting 147:9 151:2
sought 255:12 278:21 soul 197:16
sound 291:9
sounds 115:18
source 21:5 38:19
57:22 127:19 145:10
150:7 152:5 153:10
153:15 157:14,19
162:3 163:17 166:7
172:15 195:6 217:11
218:2 232:7 237:3
263:19 278:10 295:18
295:20
source's 174:22
sourced 96:21 129:7 148:20 153:21 162:1
165:3 208:7
sources 16:16,18 58:6
79:21 109:3,4 128:10
129:10 134:9,11
140:9 154:16,18
277:20 290:6
sourcing 128:7 129:14
148:22 152:12,16
165:14 238:16 269:5
269:6,6
South 35:5 182:21
187:16 southeast 3:22 5:18
188:3,4 194:17
301:21 302:7
soybean 233:11 296:22
297:4
soybeans 253:9 275:20
296:22
space 203:6
spacers 112:13
span 57:17
spanning 265:6
speak 30:8 95:19 169:1
171:15 174:3 188:13 189:3 205:4 222:4
270:14 292:7
speaker 168:16
speaking 23:18 250:6
271:12
special 36:13 38:13
special 36:13 38:13 specialized 46:2 142:15 200:2 202:18
special 36:13 38:13 specialized 46:2 142:15 200:2 202:18 specializes 137:22
special 36:13 38:13 specialized 46:2 142:15 200:2 202:18 specializes 137:22 191:15
special 36:13 38:13 specialized 46:2 142:15 200:2 202:18 specializes 137:22 191:15 specialty 68:19 229:22
special 36:13 38:13 specialized 46:2 142:15 200:2 202:18 specializes 137:22 191:15 specialty 68:19 229:22 232:7,17
special 36:13 38:13 specialized 46:2 142:15 200:2 202:18 specializes 137:22 191:15 specialty 68:19 229:22

64:10 70:9 79:16 84:2 105:9 139:4 146:21 153:11 154:16 173:3 175:14 179:17 201:22 203:15 240:4 260:1 263:3 309:10 311:7 314:21 315:4 specifically 38:12 60:13 62:13 84:4 120:22 133:5 136:4 143:5 147:3 191:22 196:18 197:3 206:2 specified 140:21 158:3 **specify** 165:6,9 **speed** 35:19 41:21 **speeds** 109:15 **spells** 268:11 spend 26:8,12 **spent** 118:19 **spike** 221:19 **spiral** 81:22 **SPM** 146:16 165:12 **spoke** 46:4 sponsored 17:21 **spot** 51:3 **spots** 32:15 **spread** 286:3 312:16 314:6,7 **spreads** 289:16 spur 182:7 **square** 236:6,10 **squarely** 68:10 79:12 squeezed 99:4 **St** 81:14 111:4 stability 39:2 55:1 309:21 310:3,8 stabilized 106:11 stadiums 77:8 staff 2:1 11:6 18:16 113:5 **staffing** 11:5 38:9 58:11 **stage** 261:1 staged 273:7 274:22 staggering 255:1 **stainless** 3:11 5:6 178:10,11,16,17,22 179:3,11,18 180:5,7 180:11,16,21,22 181:20,21 182:8,13 199:13,21 209:22 210:1,5 stamped 98:21 114:22 stand 98:12 167:9 214:11 215:5 standard 2:16 214:22 215:3 274:11

standing 189:21 stands 161:9 207:22 214:16 227:12 start 9:11,13 21:19 51:1 63:14,17 64:5,18 270:10 302:2 306:10 **started** 81:21 119:15 206:12 starting 143:16 226:9 starts 64:3 301:4 **startup** 238:20 **state** 1:16,21 2:6 5:8 11:16 15:11 65:20 105:20 123:9 125:7 143:4 154:11 156:20 156:20,22 168:4 197:12 198:13,18 206:19 208:6 213:3 223:4,16 224:14,15 236:9 246:19 283:6 308:15 310:17 state- 17:20 state-of-the-art 35:10 37:20 81:22 236:6 state-owned 43:19 44:21 88:9 **Stateczny** 3:11 5:5 199:12,14,15,19 205:7 214:1,7 stated 14:16 15:1 19:12 28:7 122:7 135:17 154:22 171:3 177:17 179:10 181:15 207:10 236:20 239:2 272:1 **statement** 4:2 76:12 249:1 271:22 302:3 303:9,11 statements 275:4 States' 250:13 271:18 stating 208:6 **Station** 72:5 statistical 86:17 statistics 317:4 **stators** 163:15 **status** 39:11 **statute** 247:15 statutes 247:14 stay 15:2 85:2 148:18 190:8 stayed 219:17 **steal** 28:4 stealing 31:14 33:4 45:6 **Steel's** 78:9 87:18 steel-based 97:8 **steels** 87:19 steering 293:20 **stemming** 226:15

step 139:14 266:12,13 **Stephens** 223:8,8 steps 80:14 81:3 272:4 **Sterner** 3:12 4:14 90:14 90:15,17,17,22 91:1 95:11 105:21 106:3 Stevan 1:19 11:21 51:15 168:7 210:20 stiff 140:22 stifled 115:16 stifling 145:15 stock 24:21 44:10 stole 14:10 43:11,21 stolen 15:21 17:10 44:2 44:20 45:1 311:21 **stop** 20:3 23:4 55:15 110:3 141:5 147:21 199:8 210:8 **stopped** 295:20 **stops** 55:16 storage 76:19 255:8,22 store 155:18 200:4 stores 212:1 **stories** 125:9 storm 77:9 235:6 238:12 **story** 161:19 197:8 206:12 253:7 straightforward 197:9 strand 77:11 **strategic** 116:17 119:16 198:17 243:11 244:9 246:1 strategically 170:13 strategy 23:3 28:8 119:20 stream 24:14 streaming 12:20 142:8 144:11 Street 1:10 2:10 5:11 246:9.13 strength 116:12 strengthening 208:22 301:16 strong 19:14 76:7 86:3 88:18 121:6 130:19 185:3 187:22 243:7 251:8 253:12 274:1 stronger 234:1 299:11 strongly 73:8 86:6 138:9 141:15 190:15 226:16 234:9 265:16 288:7 structural 71:6,14 72:12,17 74:16,21 77:12 91:10,16,22 92:1,8,10,15 93:2,4,9

standards 214:18

243:16

93:14,19,20 94:9

104:21 106:2 153:11 270:2 structure 174:20 177:21 structured 171:13 structures 77:7 struggle 66:21 struggles 42:4 54:17 studies 122:4 280:18 280:22 281:9,20 study 26:16,20 27:4 28:12 110:17 124:22 125:3 186:6,10,16 282:5 sub-assemblies 20:8 20:14 21:11 22:17,20 subassemblies 185:8 221:14 Subcommittee 194:12 subheading 117:4 132:11 261:13 subheadings 86:22 88:15 90:2,6 99:20 100:2,8 165:7 subject 16:2 18:7 50:18 54:3 72:15 74:5 79:11 86:14 94:16 98:16 99:13,14 106:4 107:9 117:6 132:12 138:13 140:2 145:5,20 147:1 171:21 172:6,16 191:13 195:14 197:4 199:3 202:5 213:6,14 214:5 227:2 248:1 293:15 312:15 313:8 **subjected** 196:12 306:6 submission 76:15 99:20 159:10 163:21 165:6 173:5 186:13 193:2 240:5 263:4 312:1,5 316:1 submissions 10:15 272:18 submit 153:3 302:10 315:16 **submits** 135:5 submitted 15:17 29:17 40:3 41:6 178:14 189:3 223:20 Subsequently 45:9 subsidiaries 133:19 subsidiary 76:3 120:18 293:22 **subsidies** 49:22 80:10 192:3 subsidization 204:21 subsidize 207:17 **subsidized** 15:3 97:19

180:18 200:17 203:3 210:16 subsidizing 85:4 substantial 122:3 161:20 201:7 204:4 219:21 245:9 287:12 substantially 130:5 substantive 270:3 substitutable 186:11 substitution 88:2 subtle 21:13 267:22 **subtly** 116:13 **suburbs** 294:3 succeed 82:10 102:18 295:14 succeeded 267:9 **success** 125:8 161:19 206:11 253:7 270:1 successful 242:20 sue 31:13 32:4 suffer 263:8 301:5 suffered 47:4 69:16 suffering 15:13 258:2 **suffers** 91:17 sufficient 107:10 173:11 243:3 312:8 314:7 suggest 28:21 249:22 317:11 suggested 136:4 suggesting 61:8 suggests 45:21 **suitable** 186:19 **Sulby** 1:21 154:11,11 160:14 168:3,3 213:2 213:2 215:6 223:3,3 271:21 283:5,5 312:11 313:3,6 summarize 99:1 **summary** 178:13,15 193:14 301:6 **summer** 179:16 **sump** 207:2 218:16 sunset 192:15 Superconductor 2:21 4:9 43:3,7 **supplement** 315:6,19 supplementary 176:13 supplied 44:2 supplier 56:20 57:7,16 114:17,21 129:10 178:10 179:15 181:12 218:2 suppliers 20:21 21:1,4 21:10 52:21 62:5,12 109:22 117:11 123:21

139:6 150:7,10,13

166:10 171:5 173:14

182:11 189:12 195:10 207:8 210:14,14 232:19 237:9,11 245:1 255:18 259:21 **supplies** 67:4,16 126:22 179:5 245:19 **supply** 20:19 25:7 35:3 37:7 54:1 56:13 72:18 91:17 92:11 93:20 104:1 115:21 117:1 127:6,21 128:6,10 139:12,17 150:18 162:20 165:22 205:22 233:6 238:22 239:16 253:3 264:15 269:1,3 269:10,11,12 290:20 294:1 300:11 309:20 310:1 313:11 **supplying** 77:3 211:4 **support** 13:9 15:11 16:10 19:8 30:16 39:17 73:8 76:6 77:6 83:12 86:1,3 124:8 128:5 131:2 138:9 141:8 143:5 171:11 201:14 227:13 231:22 236:8 241:17 242:7 253:17 269:19 279:7 284:5,9 316:12 **supported** 7:8 16:12 88:16 187:10 253:2 265:17 291:11 **supporting** 24:3 26:10 76:22 127:17 289:6 supportive 132:14 266:14,15 270:4 **supports** 61:6 81:5 82:19 86:7 87:4 98:5 127:9 136:7 183:7 184:11,12 190:16 **surge** 49:22 73:13 260:18 **surged** 73:13 surging 89:10 surpassing 256:17 **surplus** 229:11 264:11 survival 309:21 suspected 26:21 **sustain** 244:13 sustainability 121:7 123:22 sustainable 42:7 sustainably 24:9 sustained 234:5 **SW** 1:10 **swallow** 117:13 **switch** 56:18 **symptoms** 243:22

system 45:15,19 46:9 60:3 74:18 93:15 130:15,20 143:17,20 144:18 145:9 159:17 191:16 248:10 249:14 265:21 274:14 278:5 290:21 systematically 119:8 158:21 systemic 18:3 58:21 systems 27:2,17 122:1 129:21 147:7,10 151:8 Т table 87:2 267:17 272:12 273:13 274:20 282:8 tables 9:10 tactics 185:5 **Taipei** 137:19 **Taiwan** 137:20 139:7 140:9 157:15,19,20 158:1 159:5 Taiwanese 133:18 taken 7:13 8:10 14:22 94:2 242:18 takes 15:9 56:19 57:6 57:18 119:19 269:13 269:14 301:12 talent 124:3 talk 43:12 110:3 143:10 279:11 talked 69:11 152:14 277:1 talking 61:11 109:21 110:5 155:11 180:4 267:19 269:2,3 talks 119:18 tamed 118:9 **Tan** 3:13 5:15 287:21 288:2 292:1 310:16 310:21 Tang 3:15 5:16 292:2,3 292:5 297:18,20 298:6 312:10 313:15 314:13,14 315:4,20 tap 242:6 tapestry 266:3 target 14:13 75:6 91:15 92:19 198:19 239:6 targeted 38:14 87:8 133:13 136:1 245:14 285:21 targeting 125:1 133:1 134:4 tariff 8:2 22:9 32:9 33:7

33:18 38:14 39:9

49:11,14 54:19 55:19
67:1 72:14 73:22
76:10 86:22 90:2
91:11 92:1 100:1,8
102:3 104:22 110:15
112:20 115:13 120:21
122:10 125:22 126:6
128:4 129:6,18
132:10 134:14,20
135:5 136:11 138:20 140:21 166:14 173:3
173:7 175:21 177:16 179:1,4,4 180:20
181:4,7,21 182:12
183:17 184:21 185:19
185:20 190:19 191:13
192:21 193:2,21
197:5,7 199:1 210:7
215:9 221:7 230:5 233:11,20 238:13
256:21 257:2,7,12
261:5 275:14 280:3
281:1 285:4,8 286:8
287:1,6 292:13
301:14 313:9,9
tariff's 172:3 230:11
tat 296:18 tax 117:17 135:8 239:18
241:5 266:22 284:4
293:16,18 294:8
297:3,8 299:15
312:21,22
taxation 140:2 292:21
taxed 314:10 taxes 292:15
taxpayer 44:3
taxpayers 298:1
TCL 2:18 4:17 120:12
120:16,18 121:2,4
125:12 160:17,20
TCL's 161:9
team 29:5 47:18 76:22 138:6
teammates 80:7
tech 61:17 62:8 151:4,7
265:7 278:17
tech-related 285:20
technical 89:14
techniques 25:5
technological 36:11 62:1 84:5 87:22
308:21
technologies 24:18
121:22 133:12 144:11
technology 6:9 13:20
14:3 15:21 17:10,10
17:16 19:10,16,18 20:4 21:17 27:21
ZU.7 Z1.11 Z1.Z1

35:10,12 41:1 43:19
45:6 51:19 53:12
59:11 60:14 75:1,1
80:9 82:17 121:8 123:14,20 124:10,12
124:20 127:12 132:16
133:8,10,16,22 139:3
147:22 148:15,19
151:3,5 165:18 186:5 231:4 239:11 250:21
251:3 266:9 273:15
274:2 278:6 281:10
281:21 282:6 285:13
289:8,11 293:11
295:1,2,15 297:10 299:1,4 303:20
308:20 316:5,17
317:14 318:8,8
TECO 137:13,17,19
140:6,6,7 TECO-Westinghouse
3:7 4:19 136:20 137:3
139:19 141:18 162:1
TECO-Westinghouse's 140:3
teeth 32:22 95:8 251:9
telecommunication
41:1
telecommunications
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7 213:1 267:19
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7 213:1 267:19 tell 32:20 118:21 148:6 165:17 203:10 temperature 35:18
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7 213:1 267:19 tell 32:20 118:21 148:6 165:17 203:10 temperature 35:18 template 274:9
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7 213:1 267:19 tell 32:20 118:21 148:6 165:17 203:10 temperature 35:18 template 274:9
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7 213:1 267:19 tell 32:20 118:21 148:6 165:17 203:10 temperature 35:18 template 274:9 temporary 197:6 ten 176:16 211:21 271:14
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7 213:1 267:19 tell 32:20 118:21 148:6 165:17 203:10 temperature 35:18 template 274:9 temporary 197:6 ten 176:16 211:21 271:14 ten- 167:7
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7 213:1 267:19 tell 32:20 118:21 148:6 165:17 203:10 temperature 35:18 template 274:9 template 274:9 template 274:9 template 274:9 template 274:9 temporary 197:6 ten 176:16 211:21 271:14 ten-167:7 ten-minute 282:17
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7 213:1 267:19 tell 32:20 118:21 148:6 165:17 203:10 temperature 35:18 template 274:9 template 274:9 template 274:9 template 274:9 temporary 197:6 ten 176:16 211:21 271:14 ten-167:7 ten-minute 282:17 Tennessee 96:5 98:22
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7 213:1 267:19 tell 32:20 118:21 148:6 165:17 203:10 temperature 35:18 template 274:9 template 274:9 template 274:9 template 274:9 template 274:9 temporary 197:6 ten 176:16 211:21 271:14 ten-167:7 ten-minute 282:17
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7 213:1 267:19 tell 32:20 118:21 148:6 165:17 203:10 temperature 35:18 template 274:9 template 274:9 ten-176:16 211:21 271:14 ten-167:7 ten-minute 282:17 Tennessee 96:5 98:22 tens 26:8 169:21 195:8 233:21 term 134:8 152:17
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7 213:1 267:19 tell 32:20 118:21 148:6 165:17 203:10 temperature 35:18 template 274:9 temporary 197:6 ten 176:16 211:21 271:14 ten- 167:7 ten-minute 282:17 Tennessee 96:5 98:22 tens 26:8 169:21 195:8 233:21 term 134:8 152:17 155:3 227:9 244:15
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7 213:1 267:19 tell 32:20 118:21 148:6 165:17 203:10 temperature 35:18 template 274:9 temporary 197:6 ten 176:16 211:21 271:14 ten- 167:7 ten-minute 282:17 Tennessee 96:5 98:22 tens 26:8 169:21 195:8 233:21 term 134:8 152:17 155:3 227:9 244:15 258:10 271:16
telecommunications 27:19 telescopic 175:4 television 120:18 142:8 154:17 155:2 235:11 televisions 120:20 132:2,9,19,21 133:2 133:11 134:5 135:14 136:10 154:14 155:8 183:3 185:14 212:7 213:1 267:19 tell 32:20 118:21 148:6 165:17 203:10 temperature 35:18 template 274:9 temporary 197:6 ten 176:16 211:21 271:14 ten- 167:7 ten-minute 282:17 Tennessee 96:5 98:22 tens 26:8 169:21 195:8 233:21 term 134:8 152:17 155:3 227:9 244:15

55:12 134:1 208:20

260:4 273:14 280:3

280:20 **TERRENCE** 1:18 terrible 118:1 territories 159:7 **Terry** 11:18 65:16 101:20 **Tesla** 137:10 test 236:7 testament 46:13 tester 110:21 testified 54:17 280:4 314:15 318:16 testify 8:20 9:2 13:17 43:6 90:10 131:11 182:22 199:17 223:19 228:12,19 234:21 252:17 testifying 13:6 23:13 testimony 8:1,3 9:9,15 9:16 20:2 22:4 23:17 29:18,19 30:2 33:19 41:7,7 42:22 43:8 48:12 50:7 51:18 53:22 64:1,6,8 68:22 70:10 101:8 103:2 105:14 108:18 110:11 111:2 112:7 151:21 157:12 158:4 160:16 162:1,8,12 163:10 167:8 174:15 198:6 209:9 216:11 217:5.7 221:3 223:20 235:22 270:9 272:10 277:1 282:15 292:10 302:2 306:17 307:5 310:17 311:7,8 313:16 315:10,13 testing 35:8 57:11,13 164:19 **Texas** 34:14 35:9 38:5 96:5 137:4,16 139:20 162:11 205:20 259:6 textbook 37:19 textile 318:3 Thailand 185:9 221:20 thanks 13:4 49:13 62:16 63:1 85:14 107:20 153:6 159:21 166:20 205:3 222:13 265:2 279:1 302:9 306:13 319:5 theft 15:4 16:1 26:6 43:9,14,18 44:18 46:18,20 47:10,20 48:9 80:9 87:5,17 134:3 196:19 208:20 231:3 239:13 242:14 theft-related 56:7

thefts 87:20 things 19:20 29:14 60:7 104:6 105:6 108:9,16 108:19 110:22 112:14 163:16 187:17 208:13 251:2 268:20,21,22 269:3,6,21 271:10 273:2,3 274:9 276:7 312:22 third 17:17 20:22 66:5 73:20 100:18 128:22 197:20 229:13 231:1 239:16 242:14 245:1 245:6 269:16 290:11 295:22 297:2 third-largest 256:10 thirdly 307:18 **Thomas** 2:14 4:14 95:12 thorough 234:5 thoughtful 258:9 **thoughts** 265:11 thousand 18:21 203:5 203:12 204:13,19,22 230:20 314:19 thousands 14:10 46:15 115:22 117:1 149:6 212:22 241:17 threaded 77:11 98:13 98:19 threat 25:1 32:7 74:15 229:18 231:7 257:10 threaten 27:18 120:3 227:7 threatened 256:8 257:7 threats 26:15 276:3 three 4:15 8:17 27:15 57:10,14 69:4 77:20 83:5 102:4 103:19 118:19 132:18 137:16 139:9 144:5 155:8 161:16 167:2 187:17 189:9 265:13 thriving 235:15 throw 208:11 279:18 thrower 277:16 **throwers** 236:22 thumb 266:5 Thursday 8:18 thwarted 15:3 tied 198:8 290:18 tier 20:22 tiger 185:14 **Tim** 2:8 4:4 12:22 13:6 timed 229:5 times 137:17 161:17 203:8,9 238:11,15 242:3

II
Timmons 243:9 tin 86:10,12,18 87:1 89:3,5,10,18 90:3 112:6,10,19 113:2,17 tiny 100:13 108:2 tires 267:8 tit 296:17 to-government 46:19 today 8:16 9:2 13:7 23:21 31:5 33:12 34:5 40:22 41:10 43:6,8 66:12 71:20 72:10 75:19 76:6 82:2,10 86:3 90:10 95:19 97:1 98:17 108:13 110:1 113:9 119:3 120:19 132:7,17 142:6 143:8 143:10 146:9 155:3 162:17 169:1 171:15 173:16 174:4 178:11 182:22 189:3,5,21 194:15 195:11 199:16 200:8 211:17 221:13 223:19 228:12,19 234:21 237:12,16 240:9 252:17 260:3 265:12 320:14 today's 7:22 12:20 257:3 298:14 told 53:1 109:20,21 111:11 199:7 Toledo 116:6,22 188:20 tolerances 34:18 toll 141:5 Tom 23:14 95:20 tomorrow 109:14 214:7 214:7 215:5 320:16 ton 111:6 tons 24:12 93:7 94:9 148:13 162:9 tooling 57:9 66:9 69:14
173:16 174:4 178:11
194:15 195:11 199:16
223:19 228:12,19
240:9 252:17 260:3 265:12 320:14
257:3 298:14
told 53:1 109:20,21 111:11 199:7
toll 141:5
tomorrow 109:14 214:7
ton 111:6
69:18,19,22 106:22
150:11,11 166:1,8 tools 15:14 126:21
235:20 237:7,17
238:6 239:17 240:1 269:19 274:5 277:8
277:15 tooth 113:13
toothless 185:14 top 89:13 183:4 229:9
257:18
topic 95:18 265:12 total 80:2,3 97:16 135:7
196:2 260:17 286:7 totaling 26:21 140:10
tough 51:3
I

toughest 294:11 tour 25:19 **Tower** 71:13 72:3 town 195:22 tracking 20:20 trade- 303:2 trade-related 303:1 traded 77:15,22 196:6 trademarks 197:19 198:2 trades 147:12 trading 39:20 40:4,8 127:20 130:15 247:21 247:22 248:9 249:14 251:7 290:21 traditional 171:7 training 105:3,9 transactions 88:11 transcript 10:18 transcription 11:8 transfer 6:9 19:9 20:4 51:20 60:14 61:18 62:8 80:9 133:16 231:4 251:3 273:15 274:2 278:17 281:11 281:21 289:8.12 293:11 298:22 303:20 308:20,21 316:5,17 transferred 20:14 21:12 22:6,22 51:19 53:2,7 61:17 62:7,15 152:20 transfers 19:15,18 21:7 21:14,17 127:13 132:16 250:22 299:4 translate 46:12 **translates** 67:8,18 transloading 111:3 transparent 307:15 transport 200:4 transportation 19:2 27:20 204:3,19 transshipped 94:15 travel 118:17 traveled 29:6 320:14 **Treasury** 1:16,18 12:4 29:1,7 50:13 283:11 treat 243:21 treatment 187:7 273:21 273:22 288:16 319:7 treaty 273:17 tremendous 121:8 253:6 trend 75:13 tried 266:14 trigger 227:6 trillion 240:22

Trinity 2:15 4:13 80:17

80:22 81:5,14 82:5,6

82:19 83:1 85:14 **Trinity's** 84:11 **Trio** 146:15 165:13,13 **TRIPS** 250:11,15 251:5 279:6,16 troubling 196:7 197:9 truck 35:20 115:1 trucks 36:8 true 49:17 52:18 115:18 123:2 129:20 186:12 truly 40:8 120:2 124:13 **Trump** 115:13,16 120:2 **Trump's** 28:7 truth 124:7 try 266:12 270:5 272:21 279:18 trying 221:8 266:8,9 272:13 **Tsao** 1:11,14 166:22 167:14,17 168:14 194:11 209:11 212:3 212:3 220:14 221:1 222:18,22 270:10 278:13,13 283:2,8,8 306:18 309:1.9 310:12 314:12 315:21 318:13 320:9 **Tuesday** 1:7 10:3 **tuitions** 118:3 tune 44:22 tungsten 66:11 **Tunnel** 111:2 tunnels 35:17 turbines 44:1,2,19 turn 9:12 45:14 58:6 67:10 209:12 237:6 **Turning** 262:14 **Tuttle** 3:16 4:7 33:22 34:2,3,5 39:13 56:11 56:11,15 57:19 58:3 58:18 TV 121:4 122:8 123:2,3 123:7 125:19 133:4 134:3,6 135:13 142:3 142:17 143:15,17,22 144:2,4,8 145:2,19 155:20 159:17 160:7 161:13 183:16,18 184:5,18 212:17 285:18 286:5 **TVs** 121:3,10,15,17,18 121:20,22 122:4,9,17 122:19 123:14 124:8 125:11 126:5 133:20 134:10 135:22 143:11 143:11,20 144:3,7,9 144:12 145:4,13,14 145:19 154:21 155:4

155:10,11,14,19,22 159:18,19,20 160:1,9 160:9,17 161:2,5,7,8 183:5,13,14,21 184:11,14,16,20 185:2,18 186:6,10,14 186:17,18 187:9,19 212:8 221:17 285:14 297:11,14,16 Twenty 189:14 twice 230:12 two 4:10 9:5 46:10 48:1 63:1 86:22 90:2,5 91:13,14 100:6 102:5 103:18,19 107:5 109:17 110:16 138:22 147:5,15 164:17 167:10 170:3 179:21 180:2 187:19 195:3 211:13 225:18 255:11 280:9 290:3 291:5 301:15 313:7 315:8 315:17 318:11 type 32:18 58:16 139:5 162:9 164:14 170:8 199:6 types 73:10 158:4 274:8 typical 103:17 277:18 typically 277:9,15 TYRELL 2:2

U

U 189:12,16 190:20 191:3,7,9 192:1,13 193:19,21 211:2 **U.S.-based** 96:3,14 97:4 129:8,12 244:14 **U.S.-China** 246:15 254:20 **U.S.-Chinese** 284:19 **U.S.-licensed** 293:2 ultimate 297:7 ultimately 103:16 150:22 267:13 294:13 **Um-hum** 217:2 unable 34:11 238:17 unacceptable 55:10 60:22 85:10 unauthorized 87:4 unavailable 142:16 uncertainty 124:19 284:18 unclear 152:19 uncompetitive 177:13 undercut 78:20 undergo 22:13 185:19 underground 78:12

155:22 196:1

vehicle 35:18,22 57:13

underlying 244:11 246:3 288:10 289:5 undermine 145:17 259:17 261:3 264:6,7 271:16 290:20 undermines 26:5 239:1 undermining 201:17 234:2 underpin 72:21 understand 56:6 61:6 111:17 270:13,16 understanding 10:11 248:12 279:3 288:19 302:15 304:17 306:9 understands 133:22 136:6 226:13 underutilization 214:8 undoubtedly 83:11 undue 236:18 unenviable 245:8 unequivocally 246:20 unexplored 250:18 unfair 15:18 16:22 49:21 68:13 71:1 73:4 79:3.7 80:14 81:3 82:16 83:15 84:10 88:19 90:8 91:18 127:11 132:16 180:12 181:15,16 189:18 190:13 192:8 193:14 200:15 247:12 251:12 254:6 281:11 300:2 305:10 319:7 unfairly 77:15,22 196:6 unfortunately 82:12 141:5 183:9 196:6 unhappiness 42:5 54:18 unhindered 41:21 unilateral 247:7 248:2,7 249:3,7,11 250:7 287:6 303:1 unilateralism 247:20 unilaterally 251:14 279:20 302:15 304:19 319:22 unintended 115:17 122:11 130:10 136:13 244:18 254:7 260:5 278:8 union 61:6 253:14 unique 42:12 43:9 105:6 130:1 175:1 247:14 250:15 251:7 uniquely 15:16 106:15 unit 35:20 122:5 183:4 211:19 units 166:3

University 3:22 5:18 301:21 302:7 unjust 292:20 unjustly 192:4 unlawful 250:20 unnecessary 304:6 305:13 unpredictability 284:19 unprotected 93:21 unreasonable 6:22 18:3 303:22 unrestrictive 40:1 unseen 268:18 unsupported 291:16 unsustainable 193:16 untested 28:15 unused 89:12,16 unwillingness 42:14 unwritten 266:5 update 86:16 89:22 162:6 **upgrade** 203:18 upstate 174:13,18 upstream 69:9 70:4 202:6 upward 215:18 **URAA** 248:19.20.22 **urban** 277:18 **urge** 21:9 29:7 79:8 126:5 130:8 226:20 231:19 234:9 245:22 287:8 298:2 301:11 urgency 241:8 urgent 242:17 272:1 urges 28:20 227:12,16 243:6 258:8 264:15 297:21 urging 62:3 **Uruguay** 248:1,17,18 **USA** 3:16 4:8 34:1,7 140:5 208:7,10,12,13 208:14 **use** 15:21 25:5 35:7,12 37:11 56:22 66:10 92:15 105:16 133:21 140:7 147:6,9,11 151:6 163:7 175:4 180:12 191:1,1 208:7 217:19 228:20 231:21 233:18 238:7 248:20

251:15 264:4 268:22

285:4 320:6

useful 15:16 239:22

user 141:1 144:15

users 142:14 238:7

145:1 293:17

uses 27:14 112:6

USTPO 60:10

USTR 6:17 7:10 8:21 10:19 12:12 13:12,14 13:20 15:16 16:1,4,9 17:2 18:5 21:18 22:16 29:7,21 50:7 62:3 65:13 72:12 75:1,10 79:1,8 81:1,7 83:2,18 85:14 131:18 132:9 132:14 133:5 134:19 136:9 167:19 168:21 177:17 182:12 212:3 222:22 223:5 231:1 231:19 240:3 247:1,4 247:11 248:20 249:2 266:1 278:14 283:7,8 288:22 290:5 291:21 303:2,4 304:1,8,10 314:15 316:18 317:10 317:11 **USTR's** 14:5 79:12 82:14 135:16 151:22 227:1 250:21 282:1 289:20 303:18 **Usually 166:7 utilities** 181:13 **utilization** 93:6 113:7 227:21 utilize 177:6 utilized 201:5 utilizing 36:17

V

valid 145:4 validation 57:11 Valley 295:19 valuable 15:16 127:17 148:17 151:5 value 7:15 42:10 44:10 89:13 91:15 94:6 122:3,5 123:14 131:8 143:1 164:1,9 192:13 197:17 212:15 216:3 216:5 217:21 247:2 261:3 286:20 valued 40:4 94:10 **values** 94:12 valve 147:6 165:16 **VANCE 2:16** Vanderbilt 72:2 variable 97:22 138:2 variety 14:15 18:22 27:9 142:15 various 89:3 92:5 143:17 172:1 272:18 289:17 varying 199:3 vast 41:22 124:13 142:10,21,22 154:20

116:5 126:20,22 130:2 154:4 vehicles 36:7 117:6 129:2,4 130:7 vendors 205:21,21 venture 219:22 259:6 260:21 295:2.18 ventures 60:17 307:6 307:10,14,20 Vernon 263:6 280:11 280:12 verse 281:6 versus 159:6 164:4,10 270:21 vertical 124:1 vested 19:6 veterans 17:13 **veto** 248:9 viability 194:1 viable 261:20 vibrant 19:14 Vice 23:14 34:8 66:3 120:16 126:13 131:20 169:3 298:14 vicious 26:2 victim 86:5 victims 15:11 300:1,21 video 10:16 Vietnam 185:9 221:20 view 55:19 135:16 266:16 272:4 viewed 247:20 views 75:18 102:8 240:9 violate 243:17 249:17 287:4 307:16 violates 284:22 violation 249:8 violations 76:8 197:19 243:20 248:21 292:19 Virginia 70:20 71:9,17 105:7 virtually 181:11 265:9 virtue 305:22 visibility 58:4 visit 25:17 visitors 207:11 vital 28:16 144:9,10 200:6 224:20 228:9 231:21 254:10 309:20 Vizio 159:19 voice 126:16 250:6 volatility 106:12 255:21 voltage 138:2 volume 113:18 129:22 153:8,12,12,14 154:1

175:8 313:11 weeks 33:1 210:11 wisdom 125:21 267:4 300:18 voluntary 134:1 307:6 255:14 275:22 wisest 301:12 workforce 37:14,16 weigh 148:13,14 wish 17:5 52:2 115:9 127:4 W weighed 255:10 wishes 125:11 143:14 197:17 280:3 weight 22:16,19 withdraw 294:10 working 48:6 54:22 wages 192:4 Wait 63:14 Weir 2:13 4:22 146:4,14 witness 9:9,10 10:12 130:5 145:8 156:11 waiting 167:6 146:18 147:6,9 148:6 12:14,22 18:11 23:9 156:21 158:8 161:5 walnut 256:21 149:17 151:3 165:3 30:5 33:22 39:14 43:2 225:5 63:11 65:21 70:14 world 27:7 32:16 34:21 **walnuts** 255:3 165:12,12 166:12 Weir's 151:9,11 75:21 80:17 85:18 39:19,20 40:3 54:6 Wang 3:4,18 5:17 90:14 95:12 114:7,11 287:21 298:7,10,12 welcome 6:3 39:11 60:1 67:16 80:12 298:14 301:19 306:21 136:17 177:22 222:11 120:11 126:9 131:14 116:10 129:3,11 234:11 303:12 136:19 141:21 146:3 130:16 138:5 149:3 307:4,11 309:6,14 313:2,5,7 weld 92:12 173:21 178:3 182:16 152:15 169:10 174:10 welded 77:12 wanted 104:18 110:20 188:8 194:7 199:12 176:22 187:11 228:22 welfare 280:21 205:8 223:14 228:14 232:4 237:14 242:2 141:12 wants 47:17 well-established 127:6 234:16 240:12 246:8 246:17 249:15 256:7 war 27:1 39:19,20 203:9 well-known 317:16 252:7 258:13 264:21 258:21 260:14 264:3 well-respected 204:15 283:16 287:20 292:2 277:3 297:1 309:19 230:9 276:2 296:18 went 63:7 114:3 119:9 298:7 301:20 310:3,8 301:4 warehouses 162:20 158:21 167:12 219:10 witnessed 25:20 world's 30:13 34:22 219:18 220:1 222:16 witnesses 2:3 6:19 8:19 40:22 258:18 259:7 **warmest** 302:9 warned 296:13 282:20 320:18 9:2,17,22 10:6,7,10 265:6 268:6 weren't 63:18 277:2 10:13 12:17 63:21 worldwide 189:14 washing 225:12 Western 19:16 41:15 101:16 282:15 320:13 **Washington** 1:10 3:15 292:9 5:16 71:19 76:18 293:3 woman-owned 117:20 worried 232:11 77:21 101:16 115:11 Westinghouse 137:6,7 won 84:14 116:9 worse 53:5 98:9 183:18 236:9 246:14 292:3 wonder 120:2 201:12 204:15 137:9 Westinghouse's 137:8 wonderful 111:5 159:9 worth 225:22 226:3 waste 24:13,14 25:22 26:1 27:6 28:10 wheat 252:15 253:9 wondering 258:5 257:13 297:1 194:19,22 195:2,12 257:11,13,16,20 words 108:13 293:13 Wrangler 116:2 294:2 196:1 198:15 199:1 Whilst 201:14 295:10 305:13 294:14 213:5 **wholly** 76:3 133:18 work 18:22 20:15 24:17 **Wrangler's** 116:14 water 74:19 93:16 wholly-owned 60:19 36:3 42:15 47:7 52:6 wrap 287:17 297:19 169:7 206:1,3,4,8,14 wide 242:9 272:2 291:8 52:7,8,13 53:3,6 55:6 wrapped 278:9 233:8 widely 289:16 55:7 59:12,15,22 written 8:6 10:2,4,17 **Watkins** 3:21 4:7 30:5,6 Wiley 2:8 4:4 13:1,6 60:16 62:16 75:17 20:2 22:4 29:18 31:15 William 1:11,13 12:11 30:7,10 33:21 53:18 84:19 85:11 105:18 57:4 64:13 68:21 53:22 54:5 65:12 116:15 127:14 130:13 70:10 76:12 87:2 wave 15:2 willing 308:7,17 160:4 184:9 192:5 99:20 101:11 135:1 way 29:21 31:3 41:11 win-win 40:8 194:17 235:16 236:3 136:5 147:4 153:3 51:8 98:2,7 100:2 wind 35:17 43:20 44:1,2 243:1 267:1,12 159:9 165:10 173:4 102:14 109:6 112:11 44:19 64:6 268:10 279:17 186:13 216:11 223:20 worked 39:19 52:8 60:8 113:12,16,18 115:12 winding 139:21,22 250:10 311:7 312:2,5 118:10 142:16 148:22 163:22 82:6 96:9 125:12,15 316:1,1,3,3 318:12 wrong 85:14 293:18 **windmills** 206:13 170:2 171:13 174:5 201:13 worker 41:19 208:4 206:3 238:9 243:21 window 112:13 299:22 266:17 267:22 274:2 wine 255:2 275:20 workers 2:17 4:6 18:13 wrongdoers 46:5 18:19 44:7 47:2 49:15 291:7,11 315:12 winning 204:6 wrote 41:8 Winnsboro 182:21 53:1 54:18,20 61:19 **WTO** 40:3,5,11,15 41:4 ways 20:1 26:6 234:12 wins 251:20,22 62:15 71:9 72:9 80:5 59:18,19 227:19 269:18 274:16 weaken 232:20 winter 235:21 80:6 101:6 125:6,9 241:21 242:21 247:8 126:2 136:15 141:16 **weapons** 26:19 wipe 202:15 248:8,13,22 249:5,7,8 weather 23:16 **WIPO** 60:1,8 169:17 173:19 182:21 249:11,17,20 250:1,3 wire 67:6,17,17,22 website 7:10 8:22 10:19 183:9 184:6,7,10 250:16,18 251:17,21 197:21 Wisconsin 194:17 187:15 205:4 212:22 265:19 278:15,18,20 195:4 197:17 198:10 216:1 229:7 240:21 278:22 287:4,7 week 34:11 109:16,17 217:6 225:20 272:13 199:7 205:21 242:17 245:21 246:4 288:15,21 289:4

131 4:18 2:50 222:17 302:14,20,21,22 Ζ 303:3,8,13,15,17 **132** 94:19 **20** 40:10 81:19 107:13 zero 71:15 179:1 181:4 304:17,18 305:5,12 **134,000** 125:2 111:11 148:14 149:4 181:7 183:19 187:7 305:14,19,21 306:1,5 **136** 4:20 93:2 165:16 197:4 199:3 **zinc** 117:5 306:6,8,11 318:17 **14** 237:12 259:1 280:5 211:19 217:21 242:21 Zoeller 2:19 5:6 205:9 319:2,3,13,17,19 **14,000** 240:18 253:11 255:14 276:9 205:14 206:1,11,12 320:6,6 **200** 122:5,18 174:15 **142** 4:21 206:21 207:2.5 208:3 WTO's 248:12,20 **146** 4:22 182:20 205:18 208:19 209:5 249:18 250:9.11 **14906** 7:21 **200-page** 7:9 314:18 zone 34:16 36:18 56:22 252:3 302:19 304:7 **15** 1:7 77:13 107:13 **200,000** 236:10 284:5 174:18,20 176:20 **2000** 41:9 81:17 97:5 304:14,21 307:16 190:9 219:4,14 177:6 218:8 **WTO-** 269:21 256:20 257:1 **2001** 242:4 278:16 **zones** 217:6,9 Wylie 34:14 35:9,19 **15-20** 44:22 2002 192:10 267:7 38:5 **150** 24:3 242:21 280:19 0 **150,000** 126:19 **2005** 116:3 **0900** 320:16 Χ **2006** 81:21 **16** 83:7 Xi 46:4 299:8 308:9 **16.5** 225:22 **2008** 115:4 192:15 1 Xi's 46:14 **160** 82:8 **2009** 267:8 280:19 **1,100** 105:18 280:14 Xinze 2:20 5:14 283:17 **165** 96:8 **201** 16:19 225:11 292:8 **168** 5:2 **2010** 170:4 **1.300** 285:20 292:14 **17** 8:19 83:6 96:11 **2011** 45:16 293:9 year 16:21 24:14 25:11 **17-year** 96:12 **2012** 14:7 **1,342** 194:16 195:17 **1700** 169:17 2013 224:5 26:9 29:6 30:11 36:22 1,400 194:16 **174** 5:3 2014 46:1 87:10 143:16 49:5 53:6.6 82:1 83:7 **1,500** 96:6 284:2 **178** 5:3 **2015** 46:4 88:9 119:8 83:10 97:5 102:21 **1,800** 26:20 **179** 225:14 **2016** 143:7 316:22 105:12 111:8,10 **1.2** 44:13 45:18 **18** 4:6 6:12 83:9 121:16 **2017** 6:17 43:17 84:12 115:8,11 144:7 1.9 204:7 150:9 91:14 94:8 99:22 161:14 195:9 218:16 1:44 167:12 **181** 229:10 121:17 129:1 140:11 220:1,6,6 238:2 255:7 **1:54** 167:13 255:15 257:12 286:6 **182** 5:4 179:8 180:3 204:11 **10** 6:17 68:14 77:13 296:14 297:2.16 **1866** 206:12 224:22 229:10 241:1 115:5 148:13 151:11 years 19:8 26:11 31:21 **1871** 146:21 253:16 255:10 256:12 159:22 197:5 199:3 40:10 45:16 47:22 **188** 5:4 284:2 295:8 259:5 2018 1:7 6:12 7:4,19 53:1 56:2,20 57:6,18 **1888** 137:12 **10,000** 298:17 66:8 68:14 69:12,17 **1890s** 267:5 10:3 41:5 42:16 97:14 **10:00** 1:11 6:2 70:8 73:13 85:3 93:1 **19** 253:16 **2018-05** 177:17 **10:59** 63:7 **2020** 236:10 96:8,10 110:17 **19.6** 225:1 **100** 8:19 54:11 68:17 111:14 113:7 115:6 **190** 260:17 **2022** 229:12 140:18 161:11 174:12 118:17 119:2 121:10 **1930s** 267:6 **2025** 79:17 83:21 84:3 178:19 195:2,18 128:8 134:13 143:7 194 5:5 229:7 151:10,16 175:12 208:7 235:10 236:8 144:5 153:19 165:16 **1970** 170:1 176:17 239:8 242:22 **203** 111:2 170:11,19 174:12 **1972** 137:8 106 296:11 189:15,18 196:10 **1974** 247:10 254:9 **205** 5:6 **10th** 299:9 308:9 206 140:10 200:15 211:21 219:3 289:2 **11** 88:7 173:4 259:1 **1979** 81:13 **21** 142:9 219:4,14 235:14 280:5 21st 251:10 **1980s** 247:18 237:12,21 256:14 **110,000** 132:4 258:22 269:13,14 **199** 5:6 **22** 8:8 10:3 64:14 **114** 4:16 **1994** 248:17 288:17 248:11 298:22 **119** 256:12 yellow 9:12 64:4 303:7 306:2.4 **220** 316:2 **12** 14:11 98:14 111:7 **1995** 137:14 248:14 **223** 5:9 yeses 156:14 150:9 255:9 **228** 5:9 **Yi** 3:22 5:18 301:21,21 **12.6** 240:21 2 302:1,6 306:15 22nd 266:2 **12:01** 63:8 27:4,12 115:5 288:17 23 4:6 135:10 285:18 318:16 319:5 **12:52** 114:3 288:18 297:13 304:15 York 71:10,13 72:6 291:16 **12:55** 114:4 **2,000** 117:19 306:2,3 78:14 174:14,18 **120** 4:17 14:18 284:3 23.1 248:11 236:4 **2.25** 240:22 288:5 young 42:4 54:18 105:4 **232** 66:16 67:3 68:2,8 **2.5** 218:15 **126** 4:17 179:22 2:46 222:16 69:6,9 73:6 74:6 118:19 **13** 4:5 98:15

			360
75.40 70.40 00.5	220 5.40 00.0	0.45.40	0504.440.4
75:12 78:16 92:5	320 5:19 83:6	245:13	8504 140:1
93:19 94:3,22 95:7	3200 169:16	600 162:14 204:19	8504.40.95 33:18
106:13 109:21 149:20	337 242:22	61 257:13	8505.90 38:16
190:16 191:6 192:17	34 4:8 285:16 297:1	63 93:5	8509.80.20 195:13
193:17 201:16 225:16	35 76:20 96:10 111:8	65 66:7 257:14	8528.70 185:19
254:21 255:5 256:10	115:6 155:9 190:10	66 4:11 265:5	8528.72.64 121:1
234 5:10	211:16,16	67 175:8	132:11
24 109:15 230:20	350 195:9		8529 185:21
		67,541st 82:2	
240 5:11	37 24:5 80:2 83:6	7	8536.10 38:18
246 5:11	38,000 299:17	·	8803-line 20:11
25 7:14 22:9 49:10 67:5	381 126:17	7.3 250:22	
72:15 79:5 82:21 84:5	39 4:8 38:9	7.8 286:7	9
88:13 97:7,13 100:1	3D 35:13 74:22	70 4:12 31:21 69:3	90 4:14 41:10 251:20
100:20 109:20 110:1	3PLA 14:10	111:3 191:4,12	295:9
110:3,6 115:10 117:7		212:16 253:9	900 143:8 204:13
117:17 120:21 128:1	4	700 44:9 162:15	9013.80 185:21
134:14 135:6 140:2	4 218:5,7 291:18	70th 30:11	90131010 175:3
			92 208:10
180:20 184:19 187:18	4.5 183:17	711 286:6 297:15	
192:18,21 193:2	4.6 127:3	73 229:11	94 208:10
219:4 233:10 253:10	4.8 44:16	7305.31.40 81:10	95 4:14
257:12 288:13 292:13	4:51 320:18	7305.39.10 81:10	96 44:10 268:6
293:15 294:8 297:3,8	40 73:14 85:3 115:9	730810 91:10 95:4	9A 118:22
304:2	164:5 177:13 179:9	730890 91:10 95:4	
25,000 255:7	193:13 211:19 217:21	7310.10.001 179:20	
258 5:12	218:6 219:1 224:5	7310.290050 179:19	
26 294:3	400-plus 34:13	7326.90.8635 189:6	
265 5:12	40213 6:14	75 211:14 212:16	
277,000 236:5	41,000 34:14	750,000 24:12	
28 116:5	42,000 28:14	76 4:12 179:4 180:14	
28.9 122:15	43 4:9 179:6	181:17 182:12	
280 174:14	431 38:6	79 31:22	
283 5:15	459 257:14	1931.22	
292 5:16	46 155:12	8	
297 5:16			
	47 285:14 297:10	8 243:10	
298 5:18	5	8,000 44:19	
3		80 4:13 96:22 161:10	
	5 291:19	211:14 262:1	
3 29:6 291:17 296:10	5's 313:16	80-year 194:22	
3,000 126:18	50 7:16 50:17 94:8	800 142:4 143:8 229:6	
3,500 258:22	97:15 111:6 113:6	82 6:14	
3.2 127:4	115:7 122:18 132:5	822,000 229:6	
3.5 36:21 84:14	146:12 180:14 181:17	83 7:20 175:8 285:15	
3.9 177:6,12 183:14	224:6 226:2,6 240:20	83021030-I 117:4	
3:46 282:20	253:7 270:17 285:8	831 91:13 94:11	
3:57 282:21	290:7 292:15 296:11	84 186:13	
30 4:7 69:12 110:7	304:3 318:20,21	840 286:19	
116:7 140:12 155:12	500 1:10 55:8 143:7	841 286:19	
180:3 219:3 258:22	162:14	8413.60.0030 293:21	
30-some 292:9	500,000 94:9	8414.90 38:17	
300 24:4 137:15 140:11	542 99:21	8419 261:12 262:11	
140:14 204:22 236:3	543 319:14	842 286:19	
299:14	55 142:7	85 4:13 190:1 191:18	
301s 215:15	550 71:9 105:18	206:15 211:4	
3015 213.13 302 5:18	330 / 1.9 103.10	85,000 162:9	
	6	•	
303 289:1		8501 140:1	
304 289:1	6 4:2 7:19 294:4 320:12	8502 140:1	
31.5 233:19	6,000 142:11	8503 140:1	
3101.10.00 81:9	60 97:4,16 149:4 218:15	8503.00.65 206:2	
3101.10.00 81:9	60 97:4,16 149:4 218:15	8503.00.65 206:2	

<u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u>

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Section 301 Tariffs Public Hearing

Before: US Trade Representative

Date: 05-15-18

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Court Reporter

Mac Nous &