

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 15, 2017

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
Ambassador
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

As the President makes a final remedy decision as part of the U.S. International Trade Commission's (ITC) Section 201 investigation, we respectfully urge him to support domestic manufacturers and implement the remedy proposed by the petitioners. The proposed remedy, which includes a 50% tariff on washer imports coupled with a quota on covered parts, would address long-standing, unfair trade practices by foreign competitors and encourage greater economic investment in our communities.


On October 5, the ITC determined in a unanimous vote that large residential washers are being imported into our country at such significant quantities as to substantially harm our domestic industry and, in turn, the men and women who work in our manufacturing sector. Manufacturing is the lifeblood of many communities across our nation, particularly in our home state of Michigan, and the proposed remedy would encourage the growth of existing domestic manufacturing while incentivizing U.S. investment by foreign competitors.

As you know, the Section 201 case was filed because foreign competitors circumvented prior ITC orders by moving their washer production from country to country to evade U.S. trade laws. This type of uncompetitive behavior puts American workers at a disadvantage and exacerbates the country's trade deficit. An effective safeguard remedy must apply to all free trade agreement countries, including South Korea, to ensure these unfair trade practices are addressed and that companies engage in true competition, which will lead to greater innovation and the creation of more good-paying jobs in the United States.

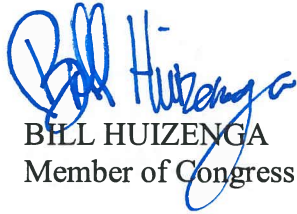
Strong and effective trade rules are essential to allowing U.S. manufacturers to compete on a level playing field. The proposed remedy would encourage the creation of thousands of direct and indirect jobs throughout the Midwest, while also ensuring that foreign competitors follow through on their plans to open washer production facilities in South Carolina and Tennessee.

We share your commitment to revitalizing our domestic manufacturing sector and bringing jobs back to America. Therefore, we encourage the President to adopt the proposed remedy and send a strong signal that our trade laws must be followed.

Sincerely,


TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress


JOHN MOOLEENAAR
Member of Congress



BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress



PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress



MIKE BISHOP
Member of Congress




DEBBIE DINGELL
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DAVE TROTT
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JACK BERGMAN
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SANDER M. LEVIN
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DANIEL T. KILDEE
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BRENDA LAWRENCE
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