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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM



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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515—3504

December 19, 2017

The President The White House Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing concerning the case brought by the Whirlpool Corporation under Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974.

Whirlpool's initial challenge to the widespread improper importing of washing machines by LG Electronics and the Samsung Corporation was decided in Whirlpool's favor in 2013, with the Department of Commerce ruling that those companies were selling machines for less than the cost of production. This led LG and Samsung to shift production from Mexico and South Korea to China to avoid the resulting tariffs.

Whirlpool's subsequent filing against LG and Samsung machines from China is resulting in another shift in production by those companies—this time to Vietnam and Thailand. This attempt to evade country-specific enforcement actions a second time has led Whirlpool to file a global safeguard petition under Section 201.

No company should be allowed to repeatedly relocate production to circumvent lawfully applied anti-dumping duties. The United States International Trade Commission has affirmed this principle through its rulings in favor of Whirlpool in every step of this process to date.

As you well know, American manufacturing employees are among the most efficient and most highly skilled anywhere. This is especially true of the thousands of Whirlpool employees in Ohio, whose standards of excellence and ingenuity have enabled the company to make major investments in our state. Given a level playing field and accessible overseas markets, they can compete successfully against manufacturers anywhere in the world.

Last month, the ITC recommended that the legal maximum tariff should be levied against imported LG and Samsung washing machines and washing machine parts above a threshold amount. As your Administration considers an appropriate final

response in this case, I ask that you support levying the strongest remedies necessary to deter manufacturers from engaging in this sort of production shifting in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and for your fine service to our great nation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may provide further information about Whirlpool or this case.

Sincerely,

Jim Jordan

Member of Congress

JDJ:jbd