

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** POLITICO Pro  
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**Subject:** U.S. trade commission staff issue pre-hearing report in Suniva solar imports trade case

By Esther Whieldon

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U.S. International Trade Commission staff today released a [report](#) showing that U.S. imports of solar cells have skyrocketed over the past four years as the products got cheaper.

The report summarizes data provided by domestic and international companies in conjunction with a trade case brought by Suniva and SolarWorld Americas. It comes ahead of the agency's Aug. 15 public hearing on whether the influx of cheap solar panels, mostly from Asian countries, has been the primary reason for the domestic manufacturing industry's financial struggles.

The report shows that total U.S. imports of certain crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells were more than five times higher in 2016 than in 2012. Over that time, the average unit value of those imported products declined from \$881 per kilowatt in 2012 to a low of \$551 per kilowatt in 2016.

It also includes a chart showing that as of last month, less than half of the more than 50 domestic solar manufacturing facilities that had been online in the last four years are still open.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Parties in the case have until Aug. 9 to file public versions of their briefs ahead of the Aug. 15 hearing at the agency's Washington headquarters. The commission expects to rule on the case by Sept. 22 and to send its recommendations to President Donald Trump by Nov. 13.

*To view online:*

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