

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Wed 11/15/2017 10:52:28 PM
Subject: State power regulators oppose hefty solar tariffs

By Eric Wolff

11/15/2017 05:50 PM EDT

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners today approved a measure asking the Trump administration to go easy on trade tariffs for imported solar panels.

The group, a trade association for public utility regulators, approved a resolution at its annual meeting in Baltimore that said it "does not dispute" the U.S. International Trade Commission's finding that cheap imports from China and elsewhere harm U.S. manufacturing, but was concerned about potential trade barriers.

"NARUC is concerned that at least some of the requested trade protections could significantly increase the price of solar panels and therefore the cost of solar electricity generation," the resolution said.

The ITC sent its recommendations for tariffs and quotas to President Donald Trump on Monday. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative is now taking comments on proposed remedies that it will present to Trump, who will make the final decision.

NARUC "urges the USTR, in its consideration of potential action, to carefully weigh the harm that could result to energy customers from increasing the costs of solar inputs across the country, and the potential challenges to achieving state renewable energy and greenhouse gas goals that may result from higher solar energy prices," the group said.

WHAT'S NEXT: The USTR will take comment until Nov. 20. Trump has until January to make a decision.

Emily Holden contributed to this report.

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