

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 1, 2026

U.S. International Trade Commission  
500 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20436

**Re: ITC Investigation TA-201-79: Quartz Surface Products**

Dear Commissioners Karpel, Johanson, and Kearns:

We write to you regarding the current Section 201 (safeguards) investigation into Quartz Surface Products.

As you know, the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) recently issued an affirmative injury determination in this investigation. As the Commission moves to the next phase in the 201 investigatory process and recommends a potential remedy, we want to express our deep concern that the petitioner's proposal – a 50-percent ad valorem tariff and a restrictive quota – will cause severe repercussions to domestic fabricator businesses, eliminate thousands of American blue-collar jobs, and raise housing prices.

The domestic quartz fabricator industry includes more than 10,000 mostly small, hometown American businesses who employ about 100,000 workers fabricating quartz. These businesses take both domestic and imported quartz slabs and use complex machinery, laser measurements, software, and highly skilled craftsmanship to make high-quality products in their communities. More than 1,000 of them submitted declarations to the U.S. International Trade Commission ("ITC") in its investigation opposing the imposition of a safeguard because trade restrictions risk hurting, rather than protecting, the profitability and employment of the industry.<sup>1</sup>

Their fears are well-founded. Economic modeling has shown that a 50-percent tariff would cause domestic employment to decline by over 6,400 employees and a 25-percent tariff would cost 4,400 hardworking Americans their jobs. Even an 8-percent tariff would eliminate the jobs of nearly 1,800 Americans and cause fabricators' profits to decline by \$161.4 million.<sup>2</sup> We strongly urge the Commission to recommend a remedy that avoids these outcomes.

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<sup>1</sup> See ITC Prehearing Staff Report at pp. 1.1, FN2 (reporting receipt of declarations from more than 700 independent fabricators opposing the petition prior to institution); *Quartz Surface Products*, Inv. No. TA-201-79, Respondents' Prehearing Brief, Exh. 1-A (Fabricator Declarations) (containing more than 340 new fabricator declarations opposing the petition).

<sup>2</sup> Travis Pope & Bhargav Prajpati, Capital Trade, Inc., Economic Modeling of the Financial Effects of an Ad Valorem Tariff on U.S. Slab Producers, Submitted in Inv. No. TA-201-79 (Remedy Phase) (Apr. 21, 2026).

In addition, the petitioner's proposal also threatens to raise the price of buying a home as Americans continue to deal with cost-of-living challenges. Even a tariff, without any quota, would have significant economic impacts. The average price of a quartz countertop is \$3,500, and a 50-percent tariff could cost an extra \$504-\$1,036 per kitchen.<sup>3</sup> The Leading Builders of America estimates that, based on input from its members, a 50-percent tariff will likely lead to an average of about \$1,000 in increased costs per home built.<sup>4</sup> As noted by the National Association of Home Builders, a \$1,000 increase in the price of a new home will price over 150,000 U.S. households out of the market.

These figures are likely understated because the Petitioner companies largely produce luxury products that often sell at more than \$100 per installed square foot. In practice, a high tariff will force everyday Americans to pay an exorbitant tax on quartz products or opt for luxury products that cost much more. This is likely to slow home building, renovation, and other investment. Indeed, the same economic modeling that shows adverse employment impacts of a safeguard also found that a 50-percent tariff would also result in a 36-percent decline in the consumption of U.S. quartz surface products.<sup>5</sup>

Although a divided panel of the International Trade Commission found injury, we believe it is critical that the ITC consider the above factors when recommending a remedy. An overly aggressive remedy is likely to cause more harm to our domestic industries than it is to help, not to mention its impact on consumers and housing supply. We urge the Commission to take a light touch approach and recommend a remedy with the least restrictive measures possible.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator

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<sup>3</sup> Quartz tariffs are looming and your kitchen could pay the price (Apr. 3, 2026), at <https://cei.org/blog/quartz-tariffs-are-looming-and-your-kitchen-could-pay-the-price/>.

<sup>4</sup> Declaration of Ken Gear, Chief Executive Officer, Leading Builders of America, Submitted in Inv. No. TA-201-79 (Remedy Phase) (Apr. 21, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> Travis Pope & Bhargav Parapati, Capital Trade, Inc., Economic Modeling of the Effects of Petitioner's Proposed Remedy (Feb. 17, 2025), submitted in Quartz Surface Products, U.S. Int'l Trade Commission, inv. No. TA-201-79 (Injury Phase).