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U.S. House of Representatives

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The Honorable David Johanson
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Johanson:

I am writing today to request that the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) conduct an investigation and prepare a report under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 regarding the potential economic effects of increased renewable energy commitments in New England and Massachusetts and the role of renewable electricity imports in meeting these commitments. Please accept this letter as a replacement for the Committee's letter of December 19, 2019.

Over the past three decades, Massachusetts has seen the retirement of both nuclear and coal-generated power plants across the Commonwealth. With these facilities offline, there has been a growing strain on the ability of New England's bulk power generation and transmission system to meet the demands of consumers. High electricity rates undermine the competitiveness of Massachusetts businesses and make it difficult for residents, particularly low-income households, to afford their utility bills.

At the same time, many New England states have set ambitious goals for seeking alternative renewable means of providing energy while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In 2018, Massachusetts enacted greater renewable energy targets. As part of its strategy for meeting this challenge while addressing high electricity rates, the Commonwealth has plans to use hydroelectricity imported from Canada, among other renewable energy resources.

To better understand the potential economic impact of the strategies in place in New England and Massachusetts to increase the use of renewable energy, I request that the USITC conduct an investigation and prepare a report that provides, to the extent practical, the following information:

- (1) An overview of the current situation and recent trends in New England and Massachusetts electricity markets with regard to domestic and imported electricity sources and rates for residential and commercial uses, and the status of the transition from nuclear and fossil fuels to renewable sources. This overview will include a description of the Commonwealth's most recent renewable energy goals and commitments as compared to previous commitments and initiatives, as well as the

renewable energy goals and commitments in other New England states, and the potential available resources to meet those goals.

- (2) A quantitative analysis of the potential economic effects on the Commonwealth, and broader New England region, of Massachusetts reaching its goals and commitments for renewable electricity sourcing. The analysis should include, for example, the potential economic effects on residential and commercial consumers of electricity.
- (3) A quantitative analysis of the likely effects on greenhouse gas emissions of meeting these goals and commitments.
- (4) Relevant case studies involving other states, regions, or countries that provide insights into the potential economic effects of imports of hydroelectricity, including on efforts to meet renewable energy targets, the rates paid by commercial and residential customers, and on greenhouse gas emissions.

I request that the analysis not focus on proposed or pending renewable energy transmission projects. I further request that the Commission deliver the report by 12 months from the date of this letter. As I intend to make the report available to the public, please do not include confidential business information. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal
Chairman