

MICHAEL T. McCAUL

10TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

**RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE
ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY**

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4310

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2001 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2401

AUSTIN OFFICE:
3301 NORTHLAND DR., SUITE 212
AUSTIN, TX 78731
(512) 473-2357

BRENNHAM OFFICE:
2000 SOUTH MARKET, SUITE 303
BRENNHAM, TX 77833
(979) 830-8497

TOMBALL OFFICE:
990 VILLAGE SQUARE, SUITE B
TOMBALL, TX 77375
(281) 255-8372

KATY OFFICE:
1773 WESTBOROUGH DRIVE, SUITE 223
KATY, TX 77449
(281) 398-1247

August 17, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
United States Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

Congress has a fundamental role in ensuring the administration, no matter the political party, spends taxpayers' dollars in an effective and efficient manner. This basic oversight responsibility by the legislative branch is one I take very seriously as a member of the United States House of Representatives. As part of this accountability, I want to bring your attention to a troubling situation happening in the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) regarding solar energy and the purchase of Chinese solar products produced in areas of China notorious for the use of slave labor.

Currently the USVI has extremely limited solar energy capacity, which will require an extensive buildout of their solar grid. Consequently, this will put significant demand pressure on solar panels, which, as was previously stated, come largely from areas linked to slave labor and genocide within China. According to a recent opinion piece by Peter Roff, "Allowing solar panels made in China or including components manufactured there by slave labor into the American marketplace because government policies created the need for them is the ultimate in wrong-headed thinking." Solar panels manufactured in controversial areas within Communist China have no place on our mainland, or anywhere else that flies the American flag, including the USVI. It is of the utmost importance that your department fully enforce the law to ensure this does not become a reality.

I am concerned also that back in March of 2022, USVI Governor Albert Bryan, announced that the Territory would be moving completely to solar to power the Islands. Gov. Bryan has stated he will ask the Biden Administration to pay for it. This, while USVI still owes hundreds of millions of dollars to companies who have completed work on USVI's energy grid and have yet to be paid. This situation hits especially close to home with a company in my home state of Texas who is still owed more than \$100 million dollars for work completed almost 10 years ago on the island.

Mr. Secretary I hope bringing this solar boondoggle, and the potential for importing slave-built solar panels to power USVI's transition to solar power warrants your immediate attention. As I have previously stated publicly, the suspension of the tariffs amounts to giving amnesty to products that the administration admitted are linked to genocide and slave labor.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further with me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael T. McCaul". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "M" and a cursive "Caul".

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress