

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 6, 2010

The Honorable Shara L. Aranoff  
Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission

The Honorable Daniel R. Pearson  
Vice Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission

The Honorable Charlotte R. Lane  
Commissioner, U.S. International Trade Commission

The Honorable Irving A. Williamson  
Commissioner, U.S. International Trade Commission

The Honorable Dean A. Pinkert  
Commissioner, U.S. International Trade Commission  
United States International Trade Commission  
500 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20436

337-TA-641

Dear Chairman Aranoff, Vice Chairman Pearson, and Commissioners,

It has come to our attention that the Commission currently is reviewing an administrative law judge's decision on the infringement by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI) of U.S. patents held by General Electric Company (GE) on its wind turbine technology. We urge the Commission to consider the analysis and conclusions presented by the presiding judge.

Schenectady, New York is the global headquarters for GE Wind's business, and over 3600 workers are employed at this facility. Many of these highly technical, engineering and product management positions are associated with the selling, siting and servicing of wind farms throughout North America. The continued success of this facility is vital to the local and state economy, and is equally important to the development of an American-based center of alternative energy development, particularly wind-based energy.

Central to investment in research and development as well as the deployment of clean technology are intellectual property rights. Any efforts that weaken intellectual property right protections relating to clean technology pose a substantial competitive risk to U.S. businesses and workers and inhibit the creation of new green jobs and the transition to a green economy.

It is critical that in reviewing this case, the Commission consider the importance of the domestic industries and ensure that intellectual property rights are upheld.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

 

Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator

Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress