

Kevin G. Hostetler - CEO, Array Technologies
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Congressional Joint Economic Committee
“Made in America: The Boom in U.S. Manufacturing Investment”

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman, and all members of this committee. It's an honor to be here today.

My name is Kevin Hostetler, and I am the CEO of Array Technologies. We are a leading American manufacturer and global provider of tracker solutions for utility-scale solar energy projects. Our solar trackers are an integral part of solar farms, rotating panels to follow the sun, which increases energy production by up to 25%.

Founded in 1989 in Albuquerque, New Mexico as one of the first U.S. solar manufacturers, Array is a true American manufacturing success story. We're proud to be an American company, sourcing low-carbon domestic steel, supporting local jobs, and using a traceable U.S. supply chain with trusted partners.

I am grateful to be leading Array during this nation's manufacturing renaissance. In April, Array broke ground on a new manufacturing campus in Albuquerque where we make our clamps, center structures, drive systems and electrical controllers.

To start, our new facility will employ more than 300 local residents in the near term. This growth will enable us to further develop more onshore capacity and make more solar technology here at home.

Over the next decade, we anticipate significant growth in industry employment, with solar manufacturing jobs expected to more than triple. In the meantime, we need to create a skilled renewable energy workforce. That's why we partner with schools like Central New Mexico Community College. In 2022, we donated a 1.3 MW solar site that generates power for the campus and serves as a training facility for Array to provide hands-on learning to students.

Collaborations like these are building a pipeline of talent, ensuring that students and job seekers have the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive as the industry creates jobs.

The IRA and other federal investments have helped to grow our domestic production. Since the passage of the IRA, there has been a notable uptick in announcements for new solar manufacturing facilities across the supply chain, driven by the law's provisions and the anticipated rise in solar demand.

This has caused a ripple effect, as our business's growth has also spurred growth for our partners. Copper State Bolts and Nuts Co. has added an additional 30,000 square feet at their Goodyear, Arizona facility to support their solar business. Our partner, Priefert Steel in Mt. Pleasant, Texas has invested \$25 million in solar in the last 24 months, employing over 200 people. Lock Joint Tube in Temple, Texas invested \$16 million in a dedicated tube line

to support solar tracker manufacturing. And finally, our partner Nucor, is investing \$70 million in capital for a new steel plant in Kentucky to support the growing solar demand.

Despite some ongoing challenges, such as high interest rates and regulatory uncertainties, the IRA has set the stage for long-term growth and stability in the U.S. solar industry. The law is expected to facilitate nearly triple the current solar capacity by 2028, fostering a strong, sustainable future for renewable energy in America.

Array's presence in New Mexico not only boosts the local economy, but also positions the region as a hub for renewable energy innovation and manufacturing. We're proud to work with companies like Enchanted Machine Works, Knockout Metalworks and Precision Sharpening. This growth contributes to a more resilient and diverse economic landscape, benefiting the broader community and promoting long-term prosperity.

The IRA has spurred a true manufacturing resurgence, and Array is just one example of how this legislation is paying dividends. With policies that supercharge solar manufacturing and create new jobs, together we are paving the way for a brighter, more sustainable future.

Thank you.