**2NC Uniqueness Run**

**The post-convention bounce is a measure of Democratic enthusiasm – it means the pool of likely Democratic voters will be higher**

**Silver, 9/13/**12 - statistician, author of FiveThirtyEight, one of Time’s 100 most influential people (Nate, “[Sept. 12: Polls Since Conventions Point to Decline in ‘Enthusiasm Gap’](http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/13/sept-12-polls-since-conventions-point-to-decline-in-enthusiasm-gap/),”

<http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/>

Why did President Obama get a bounce in the polls following the Democratic convention?

Part of it may simply be one of the functions that conventions have long served: to motivate voters who are generally loyal to the party, but who had been paying only marginal attention to the race.

At FiveThirtyEight, we measure the “enthusiasm gap” between the parties in a particular way. Specifically, we watch for cases in which pollsters report results among both the broader universe of registered voters, and the narrower one of likely voters. If one candidate’s supporters are more likely to vote, that candidate will do better in the likely-voter polls than the registered-voter ones.

Typically, the candidate who benefits from the comparison is the Republican. Republican voters tend to be older, whiter and wealthier, all characteristics that correlate with a greater propensity to vote.

In midterm election years, when overall participation is lower, the enthusiasm gap can be correspondingly greater. In 2010, for instance, we calculated it to be about six percentage points in favor of Republicans. For the most part, that advantage proved to be predictive of the actual results on Election Day. Democrats outperformed their likely-voter polls by a point or two on average in Senate and governors races, and underperformed them by a point or so in races for the House of Representatives. But in both cases the likely-voter surveys did a much more accurate job of capturing the Republican wave than polls of registered voters.

There have also been midterm election years, like 2006, when there was almost no likely-voter gap, or when it even favored Democrats by a point or so. With lower turnout, there is the possibility of a wider range of outcomes based on the particulars of the political cycle.

In presidential election years, however, when the turnout is higher, the gap has been more consistent: always favoring Republicans, but always narrowly.

Specifically, based on our research, the likely-voter gap has favored Republicans by 1.5 percentage points on average in presidential elections years since 1988, with little variance from cycle to cycle.

This year, however, there was evidence that the gap was larger, averaging close to three percentage points in favor of Mitt Romney.

Our forecasts build in an adjustment for this factor, adding points to Mr. Romney’s column in polls of registered voters, and subtracting them from Mr. Obama’s, in order to make them comparable to likely-voter polls.

Polls conducted since the Democratic convention in Charlotte, N.C., however, suggest that the gap may have narrowed. Although the difference varies from polling firm to polling firm, on the average it has reverted back to the historical average of between one and two percentage points.

In the table below, I’ve presented a comparison of the results of the polling firms that have released both sets of numbers since Charlotte. (I count the telephone and online polls by Ipsos as separate surveys, since they use distinct methodologies.)

There have been outlying results on either side. An ABC News/Washington Post poll released this week showed Mr. Obama leading Mr. Romney by six points among registered voters, but by just one point among likely voters — a five-point enthusiasm gap favoring Mr. Romney.

Conversely, a Fox News poll, released on Wednesday, showed a reverse enthusiasm gap, with Mr. Obama actually doing one point better in their likely-voter poll than in their survey of registered voters.

On average among the five polling results, however, the gap has been 1.4 percentage points favoring Mr. Romney — almost exactly in line with the historical average.

Will Democrats maintain this narrower gap? Or is it a temporary effect from the conventions?

It’s hard to know for sure, of course. Until we see more evidence, the forecast model is still assuming that the gap will be slightly wider than average, perhaps around two percentage points in Mr. Romney’s favor.

But in general, there’s more reason to believe that a shift is permanent rather than temporary when it brings the numbers closer into line with historical norms, as it has in this case.

In addition, there is a question over whether likely-voter models applied before the party conventions are all that informative, since voter enthusiasm can wax and wane over the course of the cycle.

Our research suggests that likely-voter polls become more accurate than registered-voter polls beginning around Labor Day. But it is more debatable which set of polls do a better job of predicting the result before that date.

If there were no likely-voter gap at all, and all registered voters turned out to vote, Mr. Obama would have a very clear advantage in the race, perhaps being favored to win by five or six percentage points.

That case is probably wishful thinking for Democrats. Even in years like 1996 when Republicans had a middling candidate, their voters were nevertheless quite loyal on Election Day.

But if Democrats can keep the enthusiasm gap to its traditional value of about one and a half percentage points, rather than three, that could make quite a lot of difference. Before the conventions our forecast model had generally shown Mr. Obama as a favorite by about two and a half percentage points; now it projects him to win by about four. That’s consistent with what you’d get if the enthusiasm gap had been narrowed by a point or two.

We’ll need to wait for another week or so to see how much of Mr. Obama’s convention bounce carries forward, but we’re getting to the point where polls do provide for a pretty reliable gauge of the Election Day outcome. A four-point deficit in the polls can certainly be overcome, but it isn’t that easy, especially in a year like this one with few undecided voters.

**Overall expectations about the economy are positive – this is mobilizing Democrats and boosting fundraising**

**Easley, 9/11/12** (Jonathan, “Team Obama has post-convention glow,” The Hill, <http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/248879-team-obama-has-post-convention-glow>)

The Obama campaign has been flush with good news since the Democratic National Convention, leaving both it and its Republican counterpart scurrying to deal with the altered dynamics of the race.

President Obama and Mitt Romney entered the conventions statistically tied in the polls.

Romney didn’t receive much of a bump following the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., late last month, and while Obama is enjoying a modest boost, that movement is magnified because the race has been almost completely static since Romney became the GOP’s likely nominee.

Monday’s daily tracking polls from Gallup and Rasmussen showed Obama with a 5-percentage-point lead after last week’s Democratic gathering in Charlotte, N.C., and a CNN-ORC poll released late Monday, the first major poll to come out after the completion of the convention, showed Obama with a 52-to-46 percent lead over Romney.

Perhaps the best news for the Obama campaign is that those polling numbers include reaction to last Friday’s weak job report, which showed employers added only 96,000 jobs. Economists had expected upward of 150,000 new jobs last month.

The polling bounce wasn’t the only positive development for the president this week.

On Monday, the Obama campaign announced it had raised $114 million in August, the largest monthly haul for either presidential campaign in the 2012 cycle. Romney, who raised $111.6 million in August, had beaten Obama in each of the prior three months.

And while Friday’s troubling job data will be a source of concern for the Obama campaign going forward, it came with some sunny economic news.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average on Tuesday closed at its highest mark since December 2007, and as the Democrats gathered in Charlotte, Gallup’s U.S. Economic Confidence Index surged 11 points to its highest level since January 2008.

It was the largest one-week gain for the index, surpassing the 10-point bump following the killing of Osama bin Laden. The largest swing the index ever recorded was a 15-point drop during the financial crisis in September 2008.

“The convention appears to have given Democrats and, to a lesser degree, independents, fresh optimism about the economy,” wrote Lydia Saad at Gallup. “There was no comparable shift in Americans’ views of the economy, either overall or by party, during the prior week spanning the Republican National Convention … This could reflect renewed confidence in the economy per se, or heightened enthusiasm for the Democratic Party generally.”

**Most election models predict a narrow Obama win but it’s reversible**

**Klein, 9/11/12 –** the editor of Wonkblog and a columnist at the Washington Post, as well as a contributor to MSNBC and Bloomberg(Ezra, Washington Post, “The economy (slightly) favors Obama, not Romney,”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/ezra-klein/wp/2012/09/11/the-economy-slightly-favors-obama-not-romney/>

I learned this the hard way. Some months ago, I worked with political scientists Seth Hill, John Sides and Lynn Vavreck to build a model that used data from every presidential election since 1948 to forecast the outcome of this presidential election. But when the model was done, I thought it was broken: It was forecasting an Obama win even under scenarios of very weak economic growth. (You can play with the model here.)

After a lot of frantic e-mails, my political scientist friends finally convinced me that that’s the point of a model: It forces you to check your expectations at the door. And my expectation that incumbents lose when the economy is weak was not backed up by the data, which suggest that incumbents win unless major economic indicators are headed in the wrong direction, as was true with unemployment in 1980 and 1992.

This year, the major economic indicators are headed in the right direction, albeit slowly. We’ve been adding jobs, though not enough. We’ve been growing, though not particularly fast. We’ve seen the unemployment rate drop, though partially because workers are leaving the labor force. All in all, it’s not an impressive record. But it’s weak growth, not a new recession. And the political valence of that weak growth is unusually hard to discern, as voters continue to place more blame for our current economic troubles on George W. Bush than on Barack Obama.

Recently, Dylan Matthews surveyed six other forecasting models. Five of those models include economic data. Most, though not all, are predicting an Obama win. And that, I think, is a pretty accurate summation of where the economic fundamentals of the election stand: A slight lean towards Obama, but nothing that guarantees him a victory.

**Obama is winning in all swing states**

**Miles, 9/12**/12 - Chris is the editor at PolicyMic. He has worked for media outlets including the Associated Press and the Stars and Stripes (“Obama vs Romney Polls: Obama is Winning in So Many Polls It Might As Well Not Be a Race Any More”, PolicyMic, <http://www.policymic.com/articles/14628/obama-vs-romney-polls-obama-is-winning-in-so-many-polls-it-might-as-well-not-be-a-race-any-more>)

Barack Obama is still holding a considerable polling edge over Republican rival Mitt Romney in the 2012 election.

He’s polling high … he’s winning the swing states … and now he’s even seen by the rest of the world as the candidate they trust the most.

First this: Obama is winning in the key swing states, necessary to give him the electoral college lead in terms of delegates. As U.S. News reports, with less than two months to go before the November election, President Obama has built a "structural advantage" in key swing states which makes him the favorite to defeat Romney, says a prominent Democratic strategist.

As the story reports, Obama's strength among African Americans, Latinos, unmarried women and young people is translating into a powerful asset in the nine swing states that will decide the election — Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and Wisconsin. These states have 110 of the 270 electoral votes needed for victory.

Ohio is the deathblow in that list: many pundits believe Ohio is critical if Romney has any chance at winning.

**New statistical models predict an Obama win**

**Rainey, 9/12**/12 – spent many of his 30 years in journalism cogitating on politics (James, Los Angeles Times, “Two election models, like recent polls, tilt toward Obama” <http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-pn-two-election-models-obama-20120912,0,2273167.story>

There are two competing temptations when looking at the boost in support for President Obama after the Democratic National Convention: to take the surge too seriously or not seriously enough.

With eight weeks to go until the election, plenty of time remains for unforeseen events (a dramatic economic event, a candidate’s stumble, a terrorist attack or some other calamity) to change the dynamic. But a couple of statistical analyses suggest that the recent polling has some significant, if not conclusive, meaning. And the findings all accrue to Obama’s benefit.

Politics Now cited a University of Colorado election model that several weeks ago projected a Mitt Romney win in the presidential election. But that model subsequently came in for a beating from analysts such as New York Times statistical whiz Nate Silver, who found “glaring problems” with the methodology used by the Colorado political scientists. Among other problems, the Colorado model put a huge weight on unemployment rates — but only with a Democrat sitting in the White House.

Silver and others modeling the election, including the financial prognosticator NerdWallet.com, now find that Obama’s chances of reelection have surged to a high for the year. The Obama bounce has been solid, if not exactly breathtaking, and certainly nothing like what might be known as the “Lehman Bounce” in 2008.

Four years ago, many Americans interpreted the bankruptcy of financial giant Lehman Bros. as a strong sign that the Republican Party should no longer be managing the nation’s economic affairs. Silver recalled in his blog Monday how, after the Lehman collapse, it was clear Republican John McCain would lose, “with Barack Obama’s projected probability of winning the Electoral College increasing by about 25 percent in a period of just 48 hours.” McCain never fully recovered.

Silver’s model, factoring in the candidates’ chances of victory in key swing states, has put the likelihood of an Obama victory at 60% to 70% through much of the summer. But on Tuesday it set the chances of a second Obama term at a high of 79.8%.

NerdWallet, a company that started analyzing credit card rates, extended its data analysis to fields such as education and politics. Joanna Pratt, who heads election analysis for the company, acknowledges that the political sideline was intended to bring more attention to the company’s core business.

The company looks at polls, particularly in battleground states, and their historical performance in elections. In general, the company notes that polls become more predictive of final outcomes as election day approaches. (No huge surprise there.)

On Tuesday, NerdWallet put Obama’s chance of reelection at 78.4% — just shy of the probability predicted by Silver. Of 12 states that analysts expect to be most closely contested, NerdWallet projects only two — Missouri and North Carolina — as most likely to go to Romney. Obama has more than a 50% chance of victory in 10 other battleground states: Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Among the possibilities that could cause the analysis to misfire, according to NerdWallet: “Dramatic events or substantial new information between now and the election....”

**Even GOP internal polls prove Romney is losing key swing states – and it’s not a bounce**

**Karl, 9/11/11 –** ABC News' Senior Political Correspondent (Jonathan, “Republicans Nervously Eye Swing State Polls”, <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2012/09/republicans-nervously-eye-swing-state-polls/>)

For Mitt Romney’s campaign, the outlook in the battleground states is even worse than the national polls.

According to a GOP source with **access to private polling being done by independent Republican groups** (who are spending a lot of money tracking public opinion in the battleground states), Romney is in trouble in two must-win states:

Ohio:  Romney down 5 percent.

Virginia:  Romney down 4 percent.

Most troubling for Romney:  the Ohio trend has been consistent for several weeks and is not a “sugar high” resulting from the Democratic convention.

### Links

#### Costs pc and Obama will push

Restuccia 3/21/12 (Andrew Restuccia Reporter at Politico, “Obama: 'We will not walk away' from clean-energy agenda,” <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/217393-obama-we-will-not-walk-away-from-clean-energy>)

“You’d think that everybody would be supportive of solar power,” Obama said during a speech at a solar plant in Boulder City, Nev. “That’s what you’d think. And yet, if some politicians had their way, there won’t be any more public investment in renewable energy.” Obama’s speech, part of a four-state energy tour, signals that the White House continues to believe that investing in clean energy is a winning political issue, despite the GOP’s attacks on Solyndra, the now-defunct California solar panel maker that received a $535 million Obama administration loan guarantee in 2009. “As long as I’m president, we will not walk away from the promise of clean energy,” Obama said. The president spoke Wednesday afternoon at the Copper Mountain Solar 1 Facility, which the White House said was the largest photovoltaic solar power plant in the country. While Obama didn’t mention Solyndra in the speech, he acknowledged that some investments “won’t pan out.” But he stressed that long-term investment in the renewable energy industry will boost the economy and create thousands of jobs. “When it comes to new technologies, the pay-offs aren’t always going to start right away,” Obama said. “Sometimes you need a jumpstart to make it happen.” The president sought to portray Republicans as out of touch and clinging to old notions. “If these guys were around when Columbus set sail, they’d be charter members of the Flat Earth Society,” Obama said, reprising a line from an earlier speech. “One member of Congress who shall remain unnamed called these jobs ‘phony,’ ” he said. Obama praised Tuesday’s decision by the Commerce Department to impose modest tariffs on imports of Chinese solar panels into the United States. “China wasn’t playing fair when it comes to solar power,” he said. “When the playing field is level, then American workers and American businesses always win. That’s why we’ve got to make sure that our laws are properly enforced.” Republicans have been working for months to punish Obama politically for the administration’s clean-energy investments, focusing in on the Solyndra failure. The GOP alleges that officials missed red flags that hinted at the Solyndra’s financial problems and that the administration approved the loan to please Obama’s campaign donors.

Not popular

Bradsher 11 (Keith – NYT, Nov 9, “Trade War in Solar Takes Shape,” http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/10/business/global/us-and-china-on-brink-of-trade-war-over-solar-power-industry.html?pagewanted=all)

Solar power is a politically charged issue in Washington, in part because of the bankruptcy this summer of a solar panel maker, Solyndra, after it had received more than $500 million in federal loan guarantees.

### TRADEEE

### 2nc – EU alt cause

#### The EU alt cause outweighs their internal link and decades of disputes disprove their impact

**Reuters, 7/26/12** [China's solar companies warn of trade war with EU, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/26/us-china-solar-eu-idUSBRE86P14220120726>]

(Reuters) - China's solar firms warned of a trade war on Thursday, calling on the Chinese government to strike back against an anti-dumping complaint filed by rivals in Europe, but the Europeans said they would not be put off by retaliation threats.¶ Companies led by Germany's SolarWorld ([SWVG.DE](http://www.reuters.com/finance/stocks/overview?symbol=SWVG.DE)) have asked the European Union to investigate claims that Chinese rivals had been selling their products below market value in Europe.¶ The European Commission, which has declined to comment on the issue, has 45 days to decide if it will start an investigation.¶ SolarWorld confirmed on Thursday the submission by the so-called EU ProSun group, which comprises 25 members in [Germany](http://www.reuters.com/places/germany), Spain, Italy and other EU countries. German solar module maker Sovello is also part of the initiative.¶ A similar initiative was spearheaded by SolarWorld in the United States, leading the world's largest economy to impose in May duties of about 31 percent on solar panel imports from [China](http://www.reuters.com/places/china).¶ "If the EU were to follow the precedent of the U.S. and launch an anti-dumping investigation on Chinese solar products, the Chinese solar industry would suffer a fatal blow," Yingli Solar's ([YGE.N](http://www.reuters.com/finance/stocks/overview?symbol=YGE.N)) chief strategy officer, Wang Yiyu, said.¶ "The investigation would also trigger a wholescale trade war between China and the EU, which would cause huge losses to both parties," he said at a briefing by leading Chinese solar companies Yingli, SunTech ([STP.N](http://www.reuters.com/finance/stocks/overview?symbol=STP.N)), Trina ([TSL.N](http://www.reuters.com/finance/stocks/overview?symbol=TSL.N)) and Canadian Solar ([CSIQ.O](http://www.reuters.com/finance/stocks/overview?symbol=CSIQ.O)).¶ "We call on the Chinese government to take all necessary and resolute measures to protect the legitimate interests of the Chinese solar industry."¶ Western solar companies have been at odds with their Chinese counterparts for years, alleging that they receive lavish credit lines to offer modules at cheaper prices, while European players struggle to refinance.¶ German solar company Q-Cells QCEG.UL became the most prominent victim of an increasingly competitive market, filing for insolvency for April. At least three other German solar companies have filed for insolvency in recent months.¶ EU ProSun, in a visit to meet lawyers handling their case in Brussels, said it would not be deterred by Chinese threats.¶ "A lot of companies who joined our initiative want to stay anonymous because they fear retaliation, but that is not a reason not to act," said Milan Nitzschke, SolarWorld's vice president who is leading the EU ProSun group.¶ "It is a reason to act and defend against those threats," he told Reuters.¶ DIVISION IN EUROPE¶ But not all European solar companies back the complaint and many say Europe should welcome Chinese imports because they make solar power more affordable.¶ Close to 60 percent of China's solar exports, worth $35.8 billion, were shipped to the EU in 2011, the four Chinese companies said. Europe accounted for 74 percent of global solar installations in 2011, according to industry association EPIA.¶ Europeans against SolarWorld's move say the EU ProSun group only represents a fraction of the solar industry.¶ "The majority of the industry would be the losers of an initiative driven by only a few sector representatives," said Till Richter, managing partner at Germany's Richter Solar.¶ "The backbone of the solar industry, small and middle-sized local installers, developers, retailers, engineers and maintenance technicians, would be at stake in case of anti-dumping measures being imposed by the EU," Richter said in a statement released by the Alliance for Affordable Solar Energy.¶ Nitzschke said EU ProSun did not claim to represent the entire European solar industry, but rather those companies willing to go ahead with a complaint.

### 2nc – no escalation

#### Disputes are inevitable, but they don’t escalate

Bacchus, 10 [James Bacchus is a former member of Congress and a former chairman of the appellate body of the World Trade Organization. He chairs the global practice of the Greenberg Traurig law firm.Bacchus delivered a version of this piece as testimony to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission on June 9, 2010 in Washington, D.C. ¶ Diverting A U.S.-China Trade War, Diverting A U.S.-China Trade War¶ ames Bacchus, 06.28.10, 12:10 AM EDT Disputes are inevitable, but conflict is not, <http://www.forbes.com/2010/06/28/china-united-states-exports-law-wto-markets-economy-trade_2.html>]

Chinese exports are surging. American politicians are complaining. This is not an easy time for trade relations between the United States and China. The Great Recession has created great pressures in both countries. The temptation in both is to yield to these pressures, and to retreat from previous commitments into the politically appealing refuge of protectionism and economic nationalism.¶ For both the United States and China, this would be a mistake. For both countries, by far the best way forward from recession to a lasting recovery is to sustain and strengthen their mutually beneficial economic relationship. Crucial to this relationship will be a continuing commitment in both countries to more open trade, and a continuing commitment in both countries to compliance with WTO rules for trade.¶ During its first decade of membership, China has increasingly become a leader within the WTO. This is as it should be. As a large trading country, China should, like the United States, help lead the WTO, and China should be expected, like the United States, to have many trade disputes with other WTO Members. Like all other WTO Members, China is bound by the WTO treaty to take all of its treaty-related disputes with other Members to WTO dispute settlement. In compliance with WTO rules, China is doing so.¶ China has profited enormously from the benefit of WTO trade concessions, and from the shelter of the WTO's fundamental rules of nondiscrimination. China has a considerable stake in the continued success of the multilateral trading system. The United States has gained, too, from China's entry into the WTO. Understandably, there is a tendency to focus on where China may have fallen short, so far, in reshaping Chinese ways to a full consistency with WTO obligations. This is especially so during this time of economic distress and continuing economic tension. But a focus on how far China still has to go should not blind us to how far China has already come, and in such a short time.¶ Violations of WTO rules by China should not be excused or overlooked. Nor should any WTO violations by the United States. Such violations are rightly the subject of WTO dispute settlement. But as someone who has negotiated, legislated and adjudicated on international trade, my view remains what it has always been: Every effort should always be made to resolve trade disputes by negotiation before resorting to litigation. This is my strong view with respect to trade relations between the United States and China.¶ Obviously, there is considerable concern in the United States, and elsewhere in the world, with how Chinese currency practices affect the terms of trade. Whatever the prospects for a legal case, this is one issue best resolved by negotiation, and not litigation.¶ Counterfeiting, piracy and intellectual property violations of all kinds remain pervasive in China. The Chinese have a clear WTO obligation to enforce IP rights. Negotiation has accomplished all too little where IP rights are concerned. More--and more ambitious--litigation may be needed.¶ There is understandable concern that China's proposed rules for "indigenous innovation" will discriminate against American goods and services in Chinese government procurement. On this issue the position of the United States is weakened considerably by its own domestic actions. How can the United States criticize China for imposing a requirement to "Buy Chinese" when the U.S. Congress is busy enacting "Buy American" laws?¶ The United States and China should both refrain from discriminatory procurement practices, and should work together to make the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement a truly global agreement. China must comply fully with its national treatment and other WTO obligations in trade in services. A key negotiating aim of the United States should be to encourage China to add to its services obligations.¶ A rapidly emerging area of concern is export restrictions on natural resources. Chinese restrictions on exports have already led to one WTO dispute, on raw materials, and may lead to another, on rare earth elements. No one country can be self-sufficient in everything. The United States and China share an interest in making certain that WTO rules ensure a free flow of trade and investment in natural resources.¶ Barriers to trade with China are increasingly taking forms other than tariffs. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical standards and other technical regulations can sometimes be pretexts for protectionism, imposing restrictions on trade beyond those necessary to achieve legitimate domestic purposes. WTO rules provide remedies that can be effective when used against such nontariff barriers to trade.¶ China is increasingly relying on trade remedies to restrict imports. It has every right to do so under WTO rules. China must comply fully with WTO rules when applying safeguards, antidumping duties and countervailing duties to subsidies. So, too, must the United States.¶ Overall, there continues to be a compelling need for China to enhance transparency and to uphold the rule of law. These are trade obligations, and also essential ingredients of any truly enduring economic success for China. ¶ Certainly the United States and China both have much to gain, in their two-way trade and otherwise, from a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Beyond that, new understandings, and perhaps new rules, are needed in such areas as investment and climate change and electronic commerce.¶ The United States and China can work together to address not only their bilateral concerns, but also any number of urgent global concerns. None of our global concerns can be addressed effectively without the engagement and the cooperation of both the United States and China.¶ I worry when I hear other Americans describe China as a "threat" to the United States. Thucydides cautioned us, in his history of the Peloponnesian War, that a belief in the inevitability of conflict can become one of the main causes of conflict.¶ Trade disputes between the United States and China are inevitable. Conflict is not.

#### Specific issues don’t collapse overall commitment to international trade norms

**Holwill, 08** [\*No Date cited, but most recent internally referenced date is 2008, US China Trade War? Probably Not, Vice President, Public Policy, Alticor Inc

Richard Holwill is the Vice President of Public Policy at Alticor, located in Washington, DC, where he is in charge of worldwide government affairs efforts for Alticor, the parent company of Amway Corporation. He chairs a trade advisory committee for the U.S. Trade Representative..., <https://www.hightable.com/government/insight/us-china-trade-war-probably-not-10897>]

Trade War – There has been some speculation that U.S. Government (USG) actions to sanction China on specific trade issues will prompt a trade war between the two countries.  Based on conversations at China’s Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), I believe such fears are unfounded.  During talks in Beijing, it was clear that working-level MOFCOM officials fully understand the issues involved both in the tariffs placed on paper products and the demand for consultations at the WTO on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection.  They appear ready and willing to work within the rules-based international trade system to resolve outstanding disputes.

#### Recent rare earth metal decision reflects this underlying impetus

**Reuters, 7/25/12** [China says to tighten regulation of rare earths despite WTO probe, <http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/07/25/us-china-rareearth-wto-idINBRE86O08T20120725>]

(Reuters) - China will abide by the outcome of an ongoing World Trade Organisation (WTO) investigation into its policies for the rare earths sector, but will continue to tighten regulation of the industry, an industry ministry spokesman said on Wednesday.¶ The WTO confirmed on Monday that it would establish a panel to look into complaints made by Europe, Japan and the United States over China's curbs on exports of rare earths, a group of 17 elements used in advanced technologies for the defense, electronics and renewable-energy industries.¶ Zhu Hongren of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said at a briefing on Wednesday that China would abide by any decision made by the WTO, but the country must continue to tighten regulation in the sector.¶ "Whatever it (the WTO) says, the Chinese government must be able to reasonably conserve its rare earth resources, and must ensure that these scarce rare earth materials make a greater contribution to humanity under the framework of environmental protection and sustainable development," he said.

### 2nc – solar tariffs not key

#### Election year politics and souring economy make decline inevitable

**Rapoza, 12** [1/30/12, Forbes, China-U.S. Trade Relations Could Sour With Economy, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2012/01/30/china-u-s-trade-relations-could-sour-with-economy/>]

The U.S. government sees China within the framework of a larger labor war. For years, the job market was never a top concern in Washington. But with EU again on the brink of financial disaster, according to a recent World Bank report, and the U.S. job market still lackluster, calling out China on trade matters has become a favorite policy initiative for politicians.¶ President Barack Obama has slapped more trade tariffs on China than George W. Bush, he proudly said in his state of the union address last week. Needless to say, China doesn’t like these tariffs. They don’t bode well for an export-dependent economy that’s already slowing down thanks to its Western trade partners.¶ Trade tensions can very easily be compounded by the global financial outlook and U.S. election politics.¶ “What I worry about are trade tensions between China and the U.S.,” Stephen Roach, senior research fellow at Yale University’s Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, told China Daily in Davos during the World Economic Forum.¶ Roach called China his “favorite economy” because of its state-run ability to face economic challenges without sacrificing the interest of other economies, or employment.¶ “I don’t think trade friction between China and other economies will grow, but my worry is about (the frictions between) China and the US,” Roach, an expert of the Chinese economy, was quoted saying. “Trade tensions are going to be a major feature amid the shift in the global environment in the next few years.”¶ Chinese companies have faced growing trade protectionism. In 2009 it was low cost tires that saw their price competition erode in the U.S. with new trade tariffs. Now, the government is working on protecting the U.S. solar panel industry from Chinese competition. The sector is being investigated under anti-dumping laws.¶ Going after China solar is worse than going after China tires. China’s government has made alternative energy and alternative energy technologies an important part of its five year growth plan. China is the world’s leading producer of solar panels, and competition from China has forced some companies, l[ike Evergreen Solar](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/15/business/energy-environment/15solar.html?pagewanted=all) in Massachusetts, to stop manufacturing solar panels in the U.S. because they could not compete on price.

#### And, the general downward trend in price is driven by factors impervious to tariffs

**Castelazo, et al, 12** [China’s Solar Industry and the U.S. Anti-Dumping/Anti-Subsidy Trade Case, Molly Castelazo, Director¶ ChinaGlobalTrade.com, The Kearney Alliance, The Kearny Alliance, a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) foundation based in¶ Scottsdale, Arizona, partners with other international organizations to¶ further its mission of “Aid through Trade,” to advance international¶ development and poverty alleviation through trade-related business¶ education, training and applied research, <http://ww1.prweb.com/prfiles/2012/05/16/9517260/China%20Global%20Trade%20Solar%20Manufacturing_May%202012b.pdf>]

Price – The overall global trend in the price of solar¶ cells and modules has historically been downward.¶ Price declines accelerated beginning in 2008.¶ Estimates are that global CSPV module prices¶ declined from about $3.30 per watt in 2008 to about¶ $1.80 per watt at the beginning of 2011 and $1.00¶ per watt at the end of 2011. The price is projected to¶ fall to $0.74 per watt by 2014.¶ Five factors determine the price of solar cells and¶ modules, and have driven the general downward¶ trend (save the spike between 2004 and 2008) in¶ prices. Those factors include: 1) Declining prices¶ for inputs, most importantly polysilicon; 2)¶ competition from lower-priced thin film products;¶ 3) waning government incentives and demand¶ subsidies; 4) increasing economies of scale and¶ efficiency improvements (driven by learning and¶ innovation); and 5) oversupply.