

October 29, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cochran, Chairman Rogers, Senator Mikulski, and Congresswoman Lowey:

As you set funding levels for the next two years, I am writing on behalf of the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) to urge you to provide for a substantial increase for basic research conducted at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Office of Science at the Department of Energy (DOE).

Semiconductors – the microchips that are the fundamental enabling technology of all modern electronics – play a key role in our country’s economic growth, technological leadership, and national security. The United States is the longstanding leader in this critical industry, but our leadership is being challenged by China and other competitors. Past investments in basic research, along with a collaborative partnership among government, industry, and universities, have achieved remarkable successes in driving innovation and enabling the industry to produce ever faster, higher performing, lower energy, and less expensive semiconductors. Significant investments in research programs at NSF and DOE are needed to drive the innovations of the future in this foundational technology and enable the United States to derive the economic and security benefits of this technology for decades to come. Both NSF and DOE are leading efforts on much-needed research to advance America’s high-speed computing superiority and critical research that will spur a new wave of American innovation, such as enabling the technology for the Internet of Things (IoT).

Investment in basic research has made a substantial contribution to America’s economic strength, leadership in innovation, and national security. We urge you to invest in the future and provide for increased funding for research at NSF and DOE.

Sincerely,



cc: Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Richard Shelby
Senate CJS Ranking Member Barbara Mikulski
House CJS Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman John Culberson



House CJS Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member Mike Honda
Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Lamar Alexander
Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member Diane
Feinstein
House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson House
Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member Marcy Kaptur