

April 21, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith,

On behalf of the Semiconductor Industry Association, we write in anticipation of full committee consideration of H.R. 1806, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015.

SIA serves as the voice of the semiconductor industry, one of America's top export industries and a key driver of technology innovation, economic strength and global competitiveness. The success of the semiconductor industry is due in part to continuous technological advances built upon robust research and development. Long-term fundamental science research performed at universities and co-funded by the industry and the Federal Government is critical to sustaining the pipeline of new discoveries that will fuel the semiconductor industry, our nation's economy and new job creation in America.

SIA applauds the work of the committee in authorizing funding increases at the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Department of Energy's Office of Science. Advances in semiconductor technology, design, and manufacturing that have contributed so much to our economy and national security have been based, in part, on basic research conducted at universities funded by NIST, NSF, and the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science. We are particularly pleased to see increased funding for basic research in engineering, computing, and the physical sciences at NSF, in critical research that will drive the future of nanotechnology at NIST, and in support for the advanced scientific computing research at DOE.

While we acknowledge the fiscal constraints imposed on all legislation by the Budget Control Act, maintaining the global competitive edge of the U.S. semiconductor industry will require that the federal government continue to increase investments for vital research at NSF, NIST, and the Department of Energy going forward. Our global competitors are investing in this area, and we hope that as the bill continues through the legislative process -- and as appropriators begin the task of working with discretionary spending caps -- that funding can be elevated to levels that ensure that our nation remains the global innovation leader for many years into the future.

Thank you for your continued leadership in authorizing these critical research and development enterprises within the Federal Government, which are fundamental in advancing the American economy and maintaining national security.

Sincerely,



John Neuffer

CC: Ranking Member, Eddie Bernice Johnson