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For more information:
Semiconductor Industry Association
Ian Steff
202.737.2602
mailbox@sia-online.org

**Congressman Richard Neal and Dr. Arden Bement
Honored by Semiconductor Industry Association**

Washington, DC – March 18, 2010 – The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) presented awards at its annual Washington conference to Congressman Richard Neal (D, MA) and Dr. Arden Bement, director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), for their efforts to enhance the competitiveness of the U.S. microelectronics industry. The awards were presented.

“Dr. Arden Bement has long been an effective advocate for policies that will help ensure America’s leadership in strategically important technologies,” said SIA President George Scalise. “During his tenure as chairman of the National Science Foundation, Dr. Bement has worked tirelessly to increase federal support for university research in basic science, the cornerstone of our ‘innovation ecosystem,’” said Scalise. Dr. Bement is leaving the NSF in June to lead a new Global Policy Research Institute at Purdue University.

“Congressman Richard Neal has called for a comprehensive overhaul of our nation’s tax structure that will take into account the global competitive environment,” said Scalise. “As chairman of Select Revenue Committee of the House Ways and Means Committee, Congressman Neal has recognized the key role that tax policies play in attracting – or discouraging – investment in capital-intensive facilities that create jobs, produce export products, and generate revenue. He has been a courageous and effective spokesman for tax reforms that will significantly enhance the competitiveness of U.S. companies,” Scalise concluded.

About SIA

The SIA is the voice of the U.S. semiconductor industry, America’s second largest exporter. SIA seeks to continue U.S. leadership in this critical sector that employs 185,000 people in the U.S., and provides the enabling technology for America’s \$1.1-trillion high-tech industries with a U.S. workforce of nearly 6 million people. More information about the SIA can be found at www.sia-online.org.