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SIA Applauds House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees for Bold Action in Support of U.S. Innovation

Funding for Basic Science and Engineering Research Is Critical to Future U.S. Competitiveness

San Jose, CA – June 19, 2008 – The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) today praised the Members of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) and Members of the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies (E&W) for their action this week in approving significant increases for science and engineering research.

SIA lauded Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Ranking Member Richard Shelby and the Members of the Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee and Chairman Peter Visclosky (D-IN), Ranking Member David Hobson (R-OH) and Members of the House E&W Appropriations Subcommittee for the leadership in support U.S. innovation and competitiveness.

“Basic science and engineering research is essential both for creating new solutions to America’s energy challenge and to boosting the economic competitiveness of the United States,” said SIA President George Scalise. “We are particularly grateful to Senators Mikulski and Shelby and Representatives Visclosky and Hobson for their tenacious efforts to enhance America’s science and technology enterprise. We urge Congress to enact these funding levels in the final bill.”

The FY 2009 Senate CJS appropriations bill reported out of the Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee yesterday includes \$6.9 billion for the National Science Foundation and \$809 million for the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The FY 2009 House E&W appropriations bill reported out of the House E&W Appropriations Subcommittee earlier this week includes \$4.86 billion for the Office of Science in the Department of Energy.

The Subcommittees’ funding levels for these three critical science agencies are in line with the doubling path outlined in the Democratic Innovation Agenda and the President’s American Competitiveness Initiative.

Scalise urged the Administration and the Congress to take meaningful action on remaining components of SIA's innovation agenda, including reforming the immigration system for highly educated workers and extending an enhanced R&D tax credit this year.

Scalise further noted that, for the last 50 years, U.S. leadership in technology has provided the foundation for increasing the productivity of American workers, improving our standard of living, advancing medical science and health care, and ensuring our national security.

About the SIA

The SIA is the leading voice for the semiconductor industry and has represented U.S. semiconductor companies since 1977. Collectively, the chip industry employs a domestic workforce of 216,000 people. More information about the SIA can be found at www.sia-online.org.