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For more information:

Semiconductor Industry Association

Patrick Wilson (SIA Washington Office)

202-737-2600

John Greenagel

408-436-6600

mailbox@sia-online.org

America's Semiconductor Industry Applauds President-elect Obama's Pick for Secretary of Energy

Dr. Steven Chu Will Champion Innovation as the Key to Energy Security

San Jose, CA – December 15, 2008 – The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) today praised President-elect Obama for his choice of Dr. Steven Chu to lead the Department of Energy (DOE).

“Steven Chu is a champion of U.S. innovation,” said SIA President George Scalise. “He understands the critical role that technology and innovation play in creating a brighter energy future for America. I can’t think of a better choice to head DOE.”

Dr. Chu won the Nobel Prize in physics in 2007 and currently serves as director of the E.O. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, California. He is a leading advocate of increased public investments in science and technology to achieve long-term energy security. DOE funds more physical science and engineering research than any other federal agency.

“Technology leadership is a prerequisite to solving America’s energy challenges,” said Scalise. “SIA supports a robust innovation policy agenda that will increase federal funding for basic research at U.S. universities and National Laboratories coupled with an investment climate that rewards private-sector research. We look forward to working with President-elect Obama and Dr. Chu on enacting that agenda.”

A recent study shows that computers have become nearly three million per cent more energy-efficient over the past thirty years, in large part due to smaller, faster, low-power semiconductors.

SIA companies produce critical energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies that help reduce energy consumption and increase domestic energy supply in every sector of the U.S. economy and in a broad range of applications, including home appliances, transportation systems, data centers, building lighting, and manufacturing tools and equipment. Semiconductor technology can also provide solutions to the complex problem of integrating power from alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar power, into the existing energy grid. SIA is committed to working with the incoming Administration to help the United States lead the way toward a cleaner, more energy-efficient global economy.

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.