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## **SIA Supports President's Call for Renewed Push on Competitiveness Agenda**

**San Jose, CA – January 28, 2008** – The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) today called for a renewed bipartisan effort to enact legislation designed to enhance the competitiveness of U.S. industry. The SIA expressed strong support for President Bush's renewed push for doubling federal funding for basic research in the physical sciences and for reforms that will help attract the world's best and brightest workers.

"America's leadership in Information Technology has been the principal driver of economic growth, enhanced productivity, and a higher standard of living for American citizens," said SIA President George Scalise. "During the past two years we have witnessed the emergence of a strong bipartisan consensus on actions needed to ensure that America's technology companies can compete effectively in the global economy. Unfortunately, that consensus has not resulted in action. Meanwhile, other countries and regions are offering lucrative incentives for investment by American companies and immigration policies crafted to draw the world's most talented technologists to their shores."

Scalise noted that both Republicans and Democrats have voiced support for increased federal funding for basic research, reforms that will make it easier to hire highly skilled foreign-born graduates of US universities to work in America, and extension of the R&D tax credit. "Passage of these measures to enhance the competitiveness of innovation-driven industries would provide a powerful economic boost that will have long-term effects. This would be a great time for the leaders of both parties – including all of the candidates for president – to demonstrate that we can act on legislation that is critical to America's future," Scalise concluded.

### ***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 232,000 people. More information about the SIA can be found at [www.sia-online.org](http://www.sia-online.org).