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SIA Applauds Senator Alexander's Efforts to Press for Bipartisan Congressional Action on U.S. Competitiveness Agenda

Basic Research Funding, Highly Educated Immigration Reform, and R&D Tax Credit Extension Essential to Competitiveness

San Jose, CA – April 16, 2008 – The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) today applauded Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference Lamar Alexander (R-TN) for his continued leadership in pressing for bipartisan congressional action on the U.S. Competitiveness Agenda.

Senator Alexander and the Senate Republican Conference announced a weeklong series of events, which will highlight progress on three key areas impacting U.S. competitiveness: funding for research, reform of the immigration system for highly educated workers, and education provisions in the America COMPETES Act and permanent extension of the R&D tax credit.

"We applaud Senator Alexander for spearheading this effort and for continuing to champion U.S. competitiveness and innovation," said SIA President George Scalise. "This set of issues has wide bipartisan support. If the United States is to remain the global leader in technology and innovation well into the 21st century and beyond, it is essential that Congress and the Administration work together today to make investments in America's innovation capacity."

SIA continues to actively promote these three key components or "pillars" of U.S. innovation leadership. "These three issues are inextricably inter-related," said Scalise. "Where are the new ideas going to come from? Who will execute on them? Where will they be executed? If we don't have the research for the ideas, the best minds to cultivate them and an appropriate business climate to develop them, we will lose our technological edge," he added.

In addition, SIA vigorously supported the America COMPETES Act, the most significant commitment to U.S. technological and economic leadership in years. SIA has been urging Congress to fund the legislation since it was enacted into law last August.

"Last year, bipartisan consensus was formed around the need to implement the U.S. competitiveness agenda, and now is the time to turn that consensus into meaningful congressional action," concluded Scalise.

In March, the SIA honored Senator Alexander with the association's 2008 award for advancing U.S. leadership in technology. House Science and Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN), who has also been a leading advocate of the innovation agenda, was a recipient of this year's leadership award as well.

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.