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SIA Praises House Passage of Nanotechnology Initiative Reauthorization by Vote of 407 to 6

New Emphasis on Nanoelectronics Research Will Ensure Continued U.S. Innovation Leadership

San Jose, CA – June 6, 2008 – The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) today applauded the U.S. House of Representatives for its approval, by an overwhelming margin, of legislation to reauthorize federal nanotechnology research programs. The “National Nanotechnology Initiative Amendments Act of 2008” (H.R. 5940) calls out nanoelectronics research as an area of “national importance.” SIA also called on the Senate to take final action and to send this important legislation to the President in an expeditious manner.

“Nanotechnology is the key to future high-tech competitiveness,” said SIA President George Scalise. “By focusing renewed attention and resources on nanoelectronics research, this bill will ensure that America remains the leader in this cutting-edge technology.”

Scalise thanked House Science and Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN) and Ranking Member Ralph Hall (R-TX) for their leadership to enhance the U.S. innovation economy through nanotechnology. SIA members testified at hearings on nanotechnology held by the committee earlier this year.

Nanoelectronics is technology to shrink electronic components down to the size of molecules and atoms. This technology is essential to the future development of high-performance electronic devices. Realizing this challenge, the semiconductor industry formed the Nanoelectronics Research Initiative (NRI), which funds nanoelectronics research at 35 universities in twenty states. NRI is a model of industry-academia-federal-state collaboration encouraged by the bill.

SIA has been at the forefront of efforts to make American innovation a national public policy priority, through its advocacy of the “three pillars” of innovation, which include increased funding for basic research, the permanent extension of a strengthened R&D tax credit and a reformed immigration system for highly educated workers.

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.