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SIA Lauds House Passage of H.R. 362 and H.R. 363

-Bills by Congressman Bart Gordon would improve math and science education and support basic research -

San Jose, CA - April 25, 2007 - The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) today praised House passage of H.R. 362, the "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act," and H.R. 363, the "Sowing the Seeds through Science and Engineering Research Act," introduced by Congressman Bart Gordon (D, TN), chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee.

"House action on H.R. 362 and H.R. 363 is an important step toward advancing two important goals - supporting basic scientific research at U.S. universities and preparing more American students to pursue careers in science and engineering," said SIA President George Scalise. "H.R. 362 strengthens and expands vital math and science education programs that have already proven their effectiveness in helping students acquire the skills they will need for the 21st Century workplace. H.R. 363 provides for grants to young scientists and engineers at the early stage of their careers to conduct basic research critical to maintaining U.S. leadership in technology."

Scalise noted that the bills emphasize outreach to minorities by requiring broad dissemination about the availability of grants to historically black colleges and universities and other minority institutions.

The SIA also urged Congress to act on bipartisan proposals to double appropriations over the next seven years for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and to support increased funding in the education budgets of NSF and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). "Leadership in science and technology is the foundation for driving US economic growth, enhancing the productivity and increasing the wages for American workers, improving our standard of living, and ensuring national security," said Scalise. "Supporting basic research is the key to maintaining US leadership. We are encouraged by House passage of H.R. 362 and H.R. 363 and hope that Congress will back up the legislation with appropriations to support its goals," 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.

