

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:

Semiconductor Industry Association

John Greenagel

408-436-6600

mailbox@sia-online.org

SIA Cheers Senate Passage of H.R. 2272

- Congress acts decisively to boost U.S. economic competitiveness -

San Jose, CA - August 3, 2007 - The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) today praised Senate passage of the conference report to H.R. 2272, the "America COMPETES Act," comprehensive innovation legislation designed to boost economic competitiveness by improving U.S. math and science education and investing in physical science and engineering research.

"Last night's Senate action, following swiftly on passage in the House, demonstrates Congress' commitment to maintaining U.S. technological and economic leadership," said SIA Chairman Richard Templeton, President and CEO of Texas Instruments. "By investing in basic research at U.S. universities and directing more attention and resources toward improving math and science education in the United States, this bill will ensure U.S. competitiveness in the 21st Century and will help give American students the tools they will need to compete in the global economy." Senate approval of the conference report to H.R. 2272, following approval in the House, sends the bill on to the President's desk. President Bush is expected to sign the bill into law.

The SIA urged Congress to fulfill the promise of this legislation by completing action on the relevant appropriations bills that will significantly increase funding for physical science and engineering research at the National Science Foundation, the Office of Science in the Department of Energy, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

"The America COMPETES Act lays out important benchmarks for science funding for the next several years. SIA is pleased with the actions of House and Senate appropriators in the FY 2008 bills, and we look forward to working with Congress to ensure these critical spending bills are enacted this year," said George Scalise, President of SIA.

While applauding the adoption of this strategic legislation, the SIA also urged Congress to act this year on the unfinished components of the innovation agenda set forward by bipartisan leaders including: reforming U.S. green card and H-1B visa policies to attract and retain more highly educated foreign professionals and making permanent a strengthened R&D tax credit - all shared recommendations of the Gathering Storm report, the President's American Competitiveness Initiative and the Democratic Innovation Agenda.

"Enactment of H.R. 2272 is a major step forward for U.S. competitiveness," said Scalise. "There is more work to do, however, and we urge Congress to pass the remaining pieces of the innovation agenda this year, including policies to attract the best scientists and engineers from around the world and make the tax climate for private-sector research investments competitive with the rest of the world," 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.