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SIA says Consensus Should Lead to Action

-109th Congress Must Extend R&D Tax Credit, Raise Cap on H1-B Visas, and Pass Science Appropriation Bill-

San Jose, CA – November 14, 2006 – The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) today called upon the House and Senate to take action immediately on three important pieces of legislation of vital importance to the U.S. technology sector.

“Consensus should lead to action,” said SIA President George Scalise. “Both President Bush and Leader Pelosi have expressed their strong support for strengthening the innovation capabilities of the U.S. technology sector. Three issues are especially important and should not be delayed until next year: extending and making permanent the R&D tax credit, raising the cap on H1-B visas, and passing the appropriations bill for basic scientific research.”

Scalise noted that despite a broad bipartisan consensus on an innovation agenda, the R&D tax credit has expired, the H1-B visa cap has been reached, and agencies such as the National Science Foundation (SF), the National Institute for Standards and Technology, and Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science are all operating on old budgets.

“Congress and the administration have a unique opportunity to demonstrate a new spirit of cooperation on important issues where there is agreement on the actions that are needed. We strongly urge the 109th Congress to take action to strengthen and make permanent the R&D tax credit, raise the H1-B visa cap, and pass the appropriations bill for scientific research,” 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 255,000 people. More information about the SIA can be found at www.sia-online.org.