

Email sent to Members of the House of Representatives
from Reps. Pete Sessions (TX-32) and Zoe Lofgren (CA-19), House Co-Chairs of the
Congressional Semiconductor Caucus
April 26, 2016

Support the Defend Trade Secrets Act

Dear Colleague:

As the House Co-Chairs of the Congressional Semiconductor Caucus, we are writing to urge your support for the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 (S. 1890). This bipartisan legislation has already passed the Senate unanimously and will be considered on the House floor under suspension of the rules on Wednesday, April 27, 2016.

Semiconductors – the fundamental enabling technology for all modern electronics – are an essential part of U.S. economic growth, technology leadership, and national security, and the protection of trade secrets is vital to the global competitiveness of this important industry and the U.S. economy as a whole. According to the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), semiconductor companies invest, on average, approximately one-fifth of revenues to research and development – one of the highest levels of research funding of any industry. One of the results of this substantial investment is often trade secrets, including manufacturing processes and techniques, circuit designs, and software source code. This valuable intellectual property is increasingly vulnerable to misappropriation, often by foreign competitors, and the protection of trade secrets is essential for continued U.S. competitiveness and innovation in the semiconductor industry and virtually all other sectors of the economy.

The Defend Trade Secrets Act would strengthen the ability of companies to protect valuable trade secrets by establishing a federal civil remedy in cases when trade secrets are stolen. The legislation is supported by the semiconductor industry and a broad cross-section of American business, and we urge you to support it on the floor.

Please contact Ryan Ethington (Sessions) (ryan.ethington@mail.house.gov), or ZJ Hull (Lofgren) (zj.hull@mail.house.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Pete Sessions (TX-32) and Zoe Lofgren (CA-19)
Members of Congress