

October 16, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As the Nanoelectronics Research Initiative (NRI) readies its 10-year anniversary on October 17, the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) writes to thank the U.S. Department of Commerce and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for your longstanding partnership with our industry and commitment to advancing innovation in semiconductor research.

The NRI is a robust public-private partnership with the semiconductor industry and a shining example of how NIST works to fulfill its mission to “promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness.” As you know, semiconductors form the foundation of the digital infrastructure our country depends on for economic growth, productivity, and solutions to societal and governmental challenges. Continued research investments in NRI’s successor, nanoelectronic COmputing REsearch (nCORE) program, will enable the U.S. to maintain our lead in this essential technology.

The U.S. semiconductor industry invests nearly 20 percent of revenues into research and development (R&D) each year – totaling over \$34 billion in 2016 – representing one of the most significant commitments to R&D of any industry. Through the NRI, U.S. semiconductor companies, collaborating through the industry-led Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC), are able to partner with the federal government and world-class U.S. universities to support the pre-competitive research that undergirds the next generation of semiconductor innovations. NRI-funded researchers have published thousands of research papers and hold dozens of patents for new technologies that lay the foundations of tomorrow’s devices. Equally important, the NRI helps support the “pipeline” of engineers and scientists that will help drive the industry into the future.

Thanks to this strong public-private partnership, U.S. semiconductor companies are in the best position to capitalize on NRI advances and maintain our technological lead long into the future. But science is an enterprise that builds upon itself, and there is much more to be learned. U.S. semiconductor companies are excited to continue our longstanding, fruitful partnership with NIST as the new nCORE program begins in earnest this fiscal year. With the help of NIST and other federal agencies, we can ensure that the seeds of semiconductor innovation are sown right here in the U.S. and we can continue to out innovate our competitors around the globe.

Finally, we would particularly like to highlight the excellent work of Drs. David Seiler, Curt Richter, and Yaw Obeng, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that our longstanding partnership with NIST flourishes to the benefit of U.S. economic competitiveness, the NIST mission, and U.S. semiconductor industrial strength.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Neuffer", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

CC: Gen. H.R. McMaster, National Security Advisor of the United States
Michael Kratsios, Deputy Assistant to the President, White House Office of Science and
Technology Policy
Dr. Walter Copan, Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology