

March 6, 2020

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chair
Science, Space and Technology Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Science, Space and Technology Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

On behalf of the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA),¹ I am writing in support of the reauthorization of STEM education programs within the National Science Foundation and increasing authorization levels of the NSF's domestic STEM education programs by at least 50 percent over the next decade.

Semiconductors are the fundamental enabling technology of modern electronics that has transformed virtually all aspects of our economy – ranging from information technology, telecommunications, health care, transportation, energy, and national defense – and are pivotal to the technologies of the future that will be instrumental in determining America's economic prospects in the future. To secure America's leadership in these future technologies, the U.S. must continue to lead the world in semiconductor research, design, and manufacturing, and a skilled workforce with expertise in STEM fields is critical to the industry's success. In order to meet this need, SIA released a policy blueprint, *Winning the Future*, that recommends the federal government increase U.S. investments in STEM education by 50 percent and implement a national STEM education initiative to double the number of American STEM graduates by 2029.

In addition to its essential role in supporting basic research across all fields of science and engineering, the NSF is a leader in support of STEM education at all levels, from pre-kindergarten through undergraduate and graduate career development. With a proven track record of success in STEM education, we believe the NSF can ensure the U.S. prepares more students who are ready to work in critical STEM fields like electrical engineering and computer science.

SIA appreciates your leadership on ensuring America's workforce is prepared to address the challenges of the future.

Sincerely,



cc: Subcommittee Chairwoman Haley Stevens
Subcommittee Ranking Member Jim Baird

¹ The is the trade association representing leading U.S. companies engaged in the research, design, and manufacture of semiconductors. Semiconductors are critical to America's economy, job creation, technology leadership, and national security. More information about SIA and the semiconductor industry is available at www.semiconductors.org.