March 20, 2020

Chris Krebs
Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Bob Kolasky
Director, National Risk Management Center
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Krebs and Mr. Kolasky,

On March 19, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cybersecurity and
Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released a "*Memorandum on Identification of
Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID 19 Response*" to guide State
and local officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of
functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security.
The CISA list of essential critical infrastructure workers appropriately includes
"microelectronics and semiconductors" workers, but we believe this reference should be
supplemented to assist state and local officials who may not be familiar with the industry
and its significance. Therefore, on behalf of the Semiconductor Industry Association
(SIA), this letter urges CISA to clarify that key workers throughout the semiconductor
industry and our supply chain in the U.S. should be deemed to be "essential" for the
purpose of this public health crisis.

**CISA Should Amend Guidance to Include Semiconductor Industry Workers
Broadly**

As States and local governments craft public health measures to battle the COVID-19
pandemic, including mandatory business closures, we call on CISA to specify
semiconductor industry operations broadly as "essential infrastructure" and/or "essential
business" to allow continuity in operations of an industry that underpins vital sectors of
the economy. The guidance should be updated to include the following broad definition
of the semiconductor industry and its supply chain:

> "Workers necessary for continuity in research, design, manufacturing, and supply
> chain operations, including construction of manufacturing facilities, in the
> semiconductor industry."

Semiconductor Industry Worker Access to Worksites Must Stay Intact as Necessary to Prevent Follow-on Disruption to the Economy

Semiconductors are essential components of the technologies that control and enable critical infrastructure, such as health care and medical devices, water systems and the energy grid, transportation and communication networks, and the financial system. Semiconductors also underpin the IT systems that enable remote work and access to services across every domain, including medicine, finance, education, government, entertainment and more. Semiconductor and related supply chains will be necessary to support the greater range of services that will be digitized in the coming weeks and months in order to keep the U.S. economy productive and to accelerate the recovery. In short, for each and every one of the sectors listed in the CISA guidance as essential critical infrastructure, semiconductors underpin the products, technologies, and services delivered by these sectors.

Semiconductors are also critical to our defense industrial base and our national security. Semiconductor technology provides essential capabilities to our warfighters and our military advantage. Continuity in semiconductor business operations is essential to maintaining the supply of components needed by our military today and in the future.

The U.S. semiconductor industry looks forward to working with you to assist our country in addressing and recovering from this public health crisis.

Sincerely,