

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

On behalf of the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), I am writing to express our strong support for the Endless Frontier Act.

This critical bill would restructure the National Science Foundation (NSF) and authorize substantial investment in the formation of technology directorates in key technology areas, including semiconductors. The bold investment in semiconductor and other research authorized in the bill is needed to enhance U.S. competitiveness in key technology areas vital to our economy and national defense, as well as technologies of the future such as including artificial intelligence, 5G/6G communications, and quantum computing.

As you know, semiconductors are critical to U.S. competitiveness and virtually all sectors of the U.S. economy, ranging from telecommunications to automobiles and clean energy to healthcare. Maintaining U.S. leadership in semiconductor technology is a national priority. Unfortunately, federal research investment has been flat in recent years, while spending by our global competitors continues to increase. By investing in innovation in semiconductors and other fields, the Endless Frontier Act will help strengthen U.S. competitiveness in the technologies that will drive the economy in the future while also building the pipeline of talent needed to fuel our innovation ecosystem in the future.

Past investments in research by the federal government have paid substantial dividends in advancing innovation and generating economic growth. A study by Nathan and Associates concludes that each for every dollar the federal government invests in semiconductor research the U.S. GDP grows by a minimum of \$16.50 over five years. Investing in semiconductor research is good for innovation and good for the economy.

The Endless Frontier Act is an important step forward in maintaining U.S. semiconductor leadership. We call on the Commerce Committee to act promptly to move the bill forward and for Congress to enact this important legislation into law.

Sincerely,

